

Lancaster St Bernadette Parish Bremen St Mary Parish



The Hospitality and the Faith of Abraham

God appears to the Patriarch in two scenes, the second in today's first reading

February 25, 2018

the 2nd Sunday in Lent

St Bernadette Parish

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

stbernadetteparish.net

cover picture: **The Hospitality and the Faith of Abraham**

God appears to the Patriarch in two scenes: in the center and at the left, God in three persons appears to the hospitable Abram with His astonishing promise that in a year's time he will be the Father of a great people, while his incredulous wife overhears. In the scene at the right, the later story from today's reading from Genesis 22 shows the hand of God reaching from heaven to forestall Abraham from offering his son Isaac in sacrifice to God.

A 6th century mosaic by an unknown artist in the Basilica di San Vitale, Ravenna, a church rich in Byzantine style mosaics, in a city rich in mosaics.

St Mary Parish

602 Marietta Street (740) 569 • 7738
BREMEN, OH 43107

our parishes

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at St Bernadette Parish

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liturgical music

The St Bernadette Parish office is in the Mary Good Center, across the back parking lot from the school.

Hours: 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

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liturgical music

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The St Mary Parish office is at the church vestibule.

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at both parishes

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Saint Bernadette School

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Saint Bernadette School is located at

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Bremen St Vincent de Paul (740) 569-7738
Lancaster St Vincent de Paul www.svdplancasteroh.com
Diocese of Columbus www.columbuscatholic.org
Angels Nurture & Disciple (AND) www.angelsAND.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 attend before the child is born. The next session is scheduled for **April**. If you are expecting or have a new born or somehow haven't gotten around to having an older child baptized, call Kathy to make plans now.

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. Church law requires us to receive the sacrament of Penance at least once a year.

Anointing and Care of the Sick

We receive 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 Easter time 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 weekly bulletin.

at Prayer with the Church

At Mass this Sunday the Church Prays

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. 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.

the Pope Asks Us to Pray ...

in February,

that those who have material, political or spiritual power may **resist any lure of corruption;**

in March,

that the Church may appreciate **the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment,** both on the personal and communitarian levels.

Listen to God's Word and Honor His Saints

Feb 25 2nd Sunday in Lent	Genesis 22:1-18	Ps 116 Romans 8:31-34	Mark 9:2-10
Feb 26, Monday	Daniel 9:4-10	Ps 79	Luke 6:36-38
Feb 27, Tuesday	Isaiah 1:10-20	Ps 50	Matt 23:1-12
Feb 28, Weds	Jeremiah 18:18-20	Ps 31	Matt 20:17-28
Mar 1, Thursday	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Ps 1	Luke 16:19-31
Mar 2, Friday	Genesis 37:3-28	Ps 105	Matt 21:33-46
Mar 3, Saturday <i>St Katharine Drexel, virgin</i>	Micah 7:14-20	Ps 103	Luke 15:1-32
Mar 4 3rd Sunday in Lent	Exodus 20:1-7	Ps 19 1 Cor 1:22-25	John 2:13-25

Mass Intentions This Week

Monday,	Feb 26	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Susan L. Fox
Tuesday,	Feb 27	8:20 AM	at Bremen St Mary	David Stretton
Wednesday,	Feb 28	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Donald Bolden
Thursday,	Mar 1	6 PM	at St Bernadette	Wes Baker
Friday,	Mar 2	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Margaret Rice
Saturday,	Mar 3	9 AM	at St Bernadette	Christa Herbert

the holy season of Lent

Fast and Abstinence

During Lent, Catholics in the United States

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

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

Rice Bowl

This year's theme for Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl is "**Encounter Lent.**" This Lent, we answer the call to serve the "least of our brothers and sisters" through Rice Bowl. It offers Catholics in the US a way to connect with our brothers and sisters around the world. This Lent, CRS invites us to **pray** with our families, **fast** in

solidarity with those who hunger, learn about the challenges of poverty overseas, and **give sacrificial contributions** for those in need. Visit the Rice Bowl website at <http://orb.crs.org>. Join our parishes, and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States, in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl, and during the 40 days of Lent, as companions on the journey, we will encounter our neighbor.

Way of the Cross — aka Stations

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

Sunday Mornings in Lent

You are invited to view the acclaimed film series "**Catholicism**" facilitated by Deacon Mark Scarpitti on the Sundays of Lent at 9:30 AM in the Mary Good Center. Each episode will last about an hour and conclude in time for 11 AM Mass. Journey with acclaimed author and theologian **Bishop Robert Barron** to more than 15 countries. Be illuminated by the spiritual and artistic treasures of this global culture that claims more than one billion of the earth's people.

The series will continue through the Sundays of Lent, and on into the Easter season.

Fish to Fry

Thank God it's Friday! What are you doing about Fridays after work during Lent?

- Lancaster **Knights of Columbus** will fry fish on the Fridays of Lent (Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30). Cost (for the fish, not the Stations) for adults is \$8 and for children is \$6. The Kof C hall is at 343 East Walnut Street.
- **Bremen St Mary Parish** will fry some fish on Friday Mar 23. They will accept a donation for the food pantry.

After the fish, come to St Bernadette or Bremen St Mary for the Stations of the Cross.

Lenten Penance Services

Lent is definitely the time to come to—or to come back to—the Sacrament of Penance. If you seek to be renewed in baptismal grace (which is, after all, what Lent is all about) this is the way to do that. Here are some local penance services:

Lancaster	St Mary	Thursday	Mar 1	7 PM
Logan	St John	Monday	Mar 5	7 PM
Lancaster	St Bernadette	Sunday	Mar 11	3 PM
Sugar Grove	St Joseph	Tuesday	Mar 13	7 PM
Circleville	St Joseph	Sunday	Mar 18	4 PM
Bremen	St Mary	Sunday	Mar 18	3 PM
Lancaster	St Mark	Tuesday	Mar 20	7 PM

Lenten Journey towards Easter

A few years back **Pope Benedict had this to say** about the beginning of the Church's "**Lenten journey towards Easter.**"

The Christian life is itself a constant journey of conversion and renewal in the company of the Lord, as we follow him along the path that leads through the Cross to the joy of the Resurrection. **The primary way by which we follow Christ is by the liturgy,** in which his person and his saving power become present and effective in our lives. In the Lenten liturgy, as we accompany the catechumens preparing for Baptism, we open our hearts anew to the grace of our rebirth in Christ. This spiritual journey is traditionally marked by the practice of **fasting, almsgiving and prayer.** The Fathers of the Church teach that these three pious exercises are closely related: indeed, Saint Augustine calls fasting and almsgiving the "**wings of prayer**", since they prepare our hearts to take flight and seek the

things of heaven, where Christ has prepared a place for us. As this Lent begins, let us accept Christ's invitation to follow him more closely, renew our commitment to conversion and prayer, and look forward to celebrating the Resurrection in joy and newness of life.

at Both Parishes

Black and Indian Missions

The 134-year-old National Collection for Black and Indian people continues as the embodiment of the Church's concern for helping impoverished communities among the Black, Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut peoples in our country. Devoted clergy, religious, and laity work tirelessly in parishes, missions and reservations **to bring the light of Christ** to them. The funds are distributed as grants to dioceses throughout the United States, supporting and strengthening evangelization programs which otherwise would cease. Thank you for your generosity to this appeal at Mass last week.

Lancaster St Vincent de Paul

The Society has a **new website**. You can learn about the many activities of the Lancaster St Vincent de Paul Society at www.svdplancasteroh.com.

at Bremen St Mary Parish

First Communion Parent Meeting

There is a meeting after Sunday Mass today, Feb 25, in the Bremen St Mary Parish Hall for parents of children receiving their First Communion this year. Save these dates: First Reconciliation on March 18, and First Communion on April 29.

St Vincent de Paul

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Bremen takes up a collection on the first Sunday of each month. That will be next Sunday. **St Vincent always needs members**. Call Angi Skinner at (740) 438-0027 if you can help.

Ministry at Mass at St Mary

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
2nd Sunday in Lent, Feb 25, at 8:30 AM	Susan Foltz	Reagan Conrad, Charles Schoenlaub	Susan Foltz, Leo Kunkler Sr, Pam Redding	Nick Schmelzer family	Chris Redding
3rd Sunday in Lent, Mar 4, at 8:30 AM	Paul Kunkler	Brooke Holt, Isaac Schmelzer	Wyatt Borah, Irene Kunkler, Tyna Schmelzer-Fox	Paul Kunkler family	Ralph Mohler

at St Bernadette Parish

Very Newly Baptized!

Welcome and pray for St Bernadette's newest Christian, **Dominic Charles Bissell**, son of Matthew and Kimberly Bissell, who was baptized on Sunday, Feb 11.

Assistance with Tuition

You want to send your children to a fine Catholic school like St Bernadette, St Mary's middle school, or Fisher Catholic High School,

but you wonder about the cost? Assistance is available. To be considered for the Diocese of Columbus **tuition assistance program**, you must be registered in your parish and be a supportive member. And then you need to register in the school by Mar 15. The diocese can only accept online applications (www.factstuitionaid.com). The application must be submitted by Mar 15; supporting documentation must be postmarked by Mar 15. Verification of application must be completed within 14 days from application submission. (Be sure to file early in case additional documentation is required.) Payment of the \$30 application fee must accompany the application, but only one application per family is required. Required documents are **current year W2 and previous year federal tax return** or if you do not receive a W2, then previous year & current year Federal Tax Returns. There is help out there!

Scholarship Available

The Brenda Jo Laihr Galbraith **Nursing Scholarship** & The Karen Louise Laihr **Teaching Scholarship** is available through The Catholic Foundation. Requirements are as follows:

- Must be a graduating high school student from the diocese.
- Must provide a letter of nomination from a parish leader, such as clergy or youth minister
- After reviewing the biography, students must submit an essay answering the following two questions in 350 words or less: In what ways can you apply these Christ-like characteristics in describing your daily life today, and how will you put them to use in the vocation of nursing or teaching?
- Demonstration without financial prejudice that the scholarship will most enable the student to realize his/her vocation may be considered in close decisions

St Bernadette Tuition Assistance

Ed Choice Expansion Scholarship.

Students, meeting the income eligibility (eg: family of 4 < \$50,200) can attend St. Bernadette School next fall at no cost to parents, thanks to 8000 vouchers available from the Ohio Department of Education. Scholarships are available for kindergartners, first, second, third, fourth and fifth graders. This is an extraordinary opportunity for single parents, one-income homes, fixed-income households, and working families. We encourage every family to explore this possibility. And share the information with family and friends. Call or stop by the school office.

Diocesan Tuition Assistance.

Applications must be completed on-line at www.factstuitionaid.com. File your 2017 taxes early, because that information is required on your application. All applications must be submitted and verified by Mar 15th.

Local Assistance.

You must complete the diocesan application to be eligible for any local assistance. Local assistance will be awarded based on the prioritized list generated by the diocese. (This does not refer to your parish subsidy.)

St Bernadette School Registration

St Bernadette School announces **some important dates**:

- **Now registering students** for the 2018-2019 school year, grades preschool through 5th. Private tours and classroom observations are available at any time.
- **Sunday, Feb 25, Open House today** from NOON to 2 PM. Tour the building, meet the staff, and receive registration and financial assistance information.

The preschool program offers a progressive learning approach, and kindergarten-readiness goals, within a flexible schedule.

Elementary grades (full-day kindergarten through 5th grade)

offer a highly respected program of academic excellence and positive experiences.

St Bernadette Catholic School ... celebrating Christ's love ... feel the difference the moment you walk through the doors!
For information, call the school office at (740) 654-3137.

Listen in Lent

Try something new this Lent and consider listening to Catholic Radio AM 820. Listening to AM 820 is **a good way to deepen your knowledge and love of the Catholic faith.**

Ministry at Mass at St Bernadette

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion
Saturday, Feb 24, at 4 PM Vigil of 2nd Sunday in Lent	Amy Woo	Becca Fuller, Diana & Sarah Woo	Bob & Angie Christy Joyce Guenther Lee Guinan Kathy Kehnast Teresa Scarpitti
Sunday, Feb 25, at 11 AM 2nd Sunday in Lent	Jim Merk	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Tara Craaybeek Pat Gins Rita Merk Ben Peters Mary Jane Vajen Becky Wickham
Monday, 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Daschel Neighbor Hyde O'Rielly	Pat Dreyer Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Silus Hopkins Isabelle Lazar	Angie Christy Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Kyndra Nagle Amelia Robertson	Rosalie DeFillippo Paul Lonergan
Friday, 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Morgan Cox Olivia Reynolds	Rita Merk Mary Jane Vajen
Saturday, 9 AM	Kara Tencza	Jack Tencza	Jim & Rita Merk
Saturday, Mar 3, at 4 PM Vigil of 3rd Sunday in Lent	Marguerite Grimm	Becca Fuller, Joey Mannella, Addy Myers	Susan Garrett Jim & Becky Kuhn Denise McGuire Brad Rider Kathy Wagner
Sunday, Mar 4, at 11 AM 3rd Sunday in Lent	Terry Carpenter	Clara & Susan Craaybeek, Eve Darfus	Tara Craaybeek Pat Dreyer Jean Robertson Larry Sanford David Shonk Amy Woo

Here and There

St Mary Cemetery Reminder

As Spring approaches, St Mary Cemetery asks that all artificial decorations be removed from graves by March 1. Decorations remaining on graves after that date will be removed by cemetery personnel. This winter clean up enables them to get ready for the mowing season and they appreciate your cooperation.

A Lenten Retreat: Contemplatives in the World

The Franciscan Sisters TOR invite you to be spiritually enriched during this special season in the Church at their Lenten retreat on Saturday, Mar 10, from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. The retreat includes Mass, adoration, lunch, talks, and testimonies and happens at Our Lady of Sorrows Monastery in Toronto, Ohio. Registration is required by Thursday, March 1, and space is limited. Suggested donation is \$25.

Register online at www.franciscansisterstor.org/lenten-retreat-2018/ or call (740) 544-5542 ext 115.

Pilgrimage to Carey

Join a Marian pilgrimage to Our Lady of Consolation Basilica and Shrine in Carey, on Wednesday, May 2, for **a day of prayer**. Cost is \$35. Lunch may be purchased at the cafeteria. Send a check (payable to Margaret Kronenbitter, 2700 Wayne Ridge Rd, Zanesville, Ohio 43701) by Monday, Apr 2. Call Rita Merk at (740) 654-3255 or Ann Messerly at (740) 654-3447 for information.

Religion and Science

Ohio Dominican University welcomes Br Guy Consolmagno, SJ at 7 PM on Tuesday, Mar 20, as he presents "**Religion, Science and the Common Good.**" Br Consolmagno is **the director of the Vatican Observatory** and president of the Vatican Observatory Foundation. The free presentation happens in Sansbury Hall.

in the Diocese of Columbus

Dominican Sisters of Peace Retreat

Come away to listen, pray, and reflect on how God is calling you to be a disciple. Join other single, Catholic women, ages 18-45, to explore this question and to learn about contemporary religious life. This free Columbus area retreat is a great opportunity for personal reflection and to explore Dominican life, meet some sisters, and share in their community life. The retreat goes from 5:30 PM, Friday, Mar 9, until 1 PM, Sunday, Mar 11, at the Dominicans Sisters of Peace Motherhouse in Columbus. For information, call or text Sister Pat Dual at (614) 216-7688 or email pdual@opeace.org. Travel assistance on a need basis is available.

Spaghetti Dinner

St Ladislav Parish in Columbus invites to their annual spaghetti dinner and raffle on Sunday, Mar 11, from noon until 5 PM. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$6 for children and seniors. Carryout is available. Call (614) 443-2828.

Catholic Men's Luncheon Club

The next Catholic Men's Luncheon Club features a talk on Eucharistic Adoration by Bill Hinger of St Michael Parish. Mr Hinger was instrumental in **starting 24/7 adoration chapels** at Columbus Immaculate Conception Parish and at St Michael. The luncheon happens Friday, Mar 2, at St Patrick Church in downtown Columbus. Mass at 11:45 AM is followed by lunch and the presentation by Mr Hinger. Reservations are not necessary, and \$10 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! For information on Catholic Men's Luncheons, visit www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc or contact George Harvey, CMLC President at GLHarvey56@gmail.com.

Silent Retreat for Men

The Catholic Layman's Retreat League sponsors a **Palm Sunday Silent Retreat for Men** from 5:30 PM on Friday, Mar 23, until noon on Sunday, Mar 25, at the St Therese Retreat Center in Columbus. Director is **Fr Maurice Emelu** and the theme is **Finding Joy and Peace through a Deepened Friendship with Christ**. Cost is \$160. For information call Dave Ball at (614) 753-1696 or Bob Muetzel at (740) 743-3848.

40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life extends to Mar 25. This **peaceful prayer vigil** will take place at an abortion facility in Columbus. Participants are asked to volunteer for one-hour shifts and sign a statement of peace. For details, visit www.40daysforlife.com/columbus.

Bid O’Luck at Fisher Catholic High School

Donations are being gathered for the **Bid O’Luck dinner auction** happening on Saturday, Apr 28, with the theme of **Saturday Night Irish Fever**. Not sure you have anything fabulous to donate? Give cash, and let the committee shop for you. Goods and services are wanted for the silent and grand auctions. Contact Milea Quaintance at (740) 689-3288. A limited number of Bid O’Luck **raffle tickets** are on sale at \$100/ticket for a chance at one \$7,500 prize and five \$500 prizes. Contact Kellie Shonk at keshonk@cducation.org or (740) 654-1231.

Spirit of Hope Gala

Catholic Social Services presents the Spirit of Hope Gala on Saturday, Mar 3, from 6:30 to 10:30 PM at St Charles Preparatory School in Columbus. The annual event benefits Catholic Social Services’ **14 programs that help poor and vulnerable seniors and families**. To purchase tickets or to sponsor, visit www.colss.org or contact (614) 857-1236.

Opiate Addiction Epidemic Resources

For a list of **resources and suggestions** for families, schools, and parishes to respond to the opiate addiction epidemic in Ohio, visit www.columbuscatholic.org/drug-awareness or contact the Social Concerns office at (614) 241-2540.

A Conference for Catholic Youth

Catholic teens in the Diocese are invited to a day of music, inspiration, making new friends, and celebrating our Catholic faith with Bishop Campbell. The DCYC is the official Catholic conference of the diocese for grades 9-12. The DCYC will be hosted by St Cecilia Parish, Columbus, from 9 AM- 9 PM on Saturday, Mar 3; the theme is **Rise to Joy**. Bishop Campbell and Bob Rice are keynote presenters. There will be workshops, the sacrament of Reconciliation, and small group discussions. High school students should register through their parish youth ministry leader or DRE. A charge of \$50 will cover lunch, dinner, and a t-shirt. For information, visit <https://columbuscatholic.org/dcyc>.

Talking about Walking with Purpose

Attend a lecture and reception **with Lisa Brenninkmeyer**, author of the *Walking with Purpose* women’s bible studies, at St John Neumann Parish in Sunbury on Wednesday, Mar 14, at 10 AM or 7 PM. Registration is available at <http://www.saintjohnsunbury.org>. Tickets are \$15 per person. Contact Christina Weber, director of marriage & family life at St John Neumann, with questions at cweber.saintjohn@gmail.com.

Called to Serve One Another

Sts Peter and Paul Retreat Center has launched a **capital campaign** to support updates and continued improvements of the retreat center. Funds raised will provide an efficient space to serve the faith communities which enter the doors. Learn more at www.stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.com or (740) 928-4246.



Religious Freedom in Crisis

The Theological Consortium of greater Columbus presents the 14th annual Lecture on World Religions and Interreligious Relations on Thursday, Mar 8, at 7 PM at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus. Dr Thomas Farr, president of the Religious Freedom Institute, speaks on *The Crisis of Religious Freedom in America and Abroad: How it Affects Us All*. Reservations not required; for information visit pcj.edu or call (614) 985-2274.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Come to a Marriage Encounter Weekend and learn ways **to use your marriage’s ups and downs to deepen your love** for each other and for God. For information about a weekend, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit www.wmccolumbus.org.

Foundation Scholarships

The Catholic Foundation’s **applications for scholarships** closes on Mar 9. Scholarships support promising and deserving students by assisting them with the costs of their education. Donors often establish a scholarship to honor or memorialize friends, teachers, family members, or other loved ones. Since 2007, The Catholic Foundation has awarded over \$430,000 in scholarships empowering over 100 young people to continue their academic and vocational studies. For information and to apply, visit www.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships. If you are interested in **opening a Scholarship Fund of your own**, contact Scott Hartman at shartman@catholic-foundation.org or (614) 443-8893.

Charismatic Retreat

You are invited to the annual **Catholic Charismatic Men & Women’s Retreat** on Mar 16-18 at the St Therese Retreat Center. Walter Matthews (executive director of the National Catholic Charismatic Renewal) will be retreat director speaking on **“Reflections on our Journey of Faith.”** Register on line at ccrcolumbus.org; for information call Karyl Pulsinelli at (614) 736-2783.

Weekly Confessions & Weekday Mass							
But these times sometimes change, so be sure to call ahead!							
parish	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Penance
Bremen St Mary		8:20 AM					8 AM Sun
Lancaster St Bernadette	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	9 on 1 st Sat	5:30 PM Thu, 3 PM Sat, 8:30 AM on 1 st Sat
Lancaster St Mary	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM			4 PM Sat
Lancaster St Mark	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM		5:30 PM Sat
Sugar Grove St Joseph	VARIES	NOON	7 AM	NOON	NOON		½ hour before Mass
Circleville St Joseph	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		9 AM		4 PM Sat
Logan St John	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM	4 PM Sat
Fisher Catholic HS					2:40 PM		2 PM on 1 st Fri

Marriage and Remarriage

It is easier to get married than to stay married. A person finds and falls in love with Mr. or Miss (or Mrs.) Right and they get married. Then they live happily ever after. But sometimes they don't. Things go wrong. They divorce and then try again with someone else. And sometimes they try again. And again.

Often it does work out beautifully. Every person getting married wants it to. So, why doesn't it always turn out better? We could blame the problems in marriages on so many things. One solution to the problem that easily becomes part of the problem, is the escape valve of divorce. Back in the day when divorce wasn't as readily available, marrying couples entered marriage knowing **they had to make it work**. Not every marriage was a good marriage, but every husband and every wife knew that they had no choice—not just that it was a good idea; they had to keep trying, in good times and in bad, in sickness or health, until death. When an escape valve was attached, it was meant to help. The effect, for so many, was to turn a lifetime commitment into a wish. Instead of “I will persevere”, there developed a sense of “I sure hope it works.”

Even the Catholic Church knows there are times when a divorce may be necessary: To protect a spouse or a child from abuse, for instance. But it is essential to understand what that means: The effect of a divorce is not to end a marriage, the union of a man and a woman joined together by God. Jesus said: “So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate” (Matthew 19:6). A divorce ends what the state of Ohio (or wherever state) has joined together. It ends the civil contract, which is an agreement about property, inheritance, residence, regulation of the upbringing of children, etc. It doesn't end what God has joined together.

That's why the Catholic Church says a divorced Catholic person must not marry someone else. And a Catholic isn't able to marry a divorced person. That isn't a judgment on the problems of the marriage from which a person was divorced or on the quality of either divorced person. It is just a matter of eligibility for further marriage in the Catholic Church. And the Church presumes the validity of marriages of non-Catholics, even if they are no longer living in marriage.

So, when people divorce, often for legitimate reasons, this does not disqualify them from the sacramental life. But they must not think that their marriage is ended and thus they are free to date and remarry. To marry outside the sacramental life puts a person outside that sacramental life.

The Church's restrictions about remarriage really do make sense, even if they are difficult. But there is a wise—and honest—escape clause here. The Church recognizes any marriage as valid **unless and until it is demonstrated never to have been a marriage in the first place**. That is the tricky part. It's where the Catholic annulment enters in.

An annulment is a declaration by a tribunal, authorized by a Catholic bishop. The annulment's decree of dissolution says that there was **something fundamental missing at the moment when the marriage commitment was actually publicly made**. After a careful look into the matter, a diocesan tribunal says that **what looks like a marriage in a particular case is in fact no marriage at all**. Not that there had been a marriage and that it ended, but that it was not the real thing from the beginning of the marriage. Even if the forms were correct and both husband and wife felt they had good intentions.

So, **who can get an annulment?** Not just people who donate a lot of time or money to the Church; in fact, they get no special treatment. Sure, in earlier times it was mostly kings and princes (and not peasants and laborers) who had their marriages annulled. The rich and powerful had the leisure and the resources to pursue this legal procedure. That has changed in modern society. Now ordinary people are in a position to seek an annulment.

What are the grounds for a church tribunal to declare that **what once looked like a marriage is not a marriage**? The simplest situation (even if the break of the marriage is never simple or easy) is this: A Catholic gets married, but not according to the law of the Catholic Church (gets married “outside the Church” not in the sense that it was an outdoor wedding or a wedding in a Protestant church building, but in the sense that it was without the authorization of the Catholic's pastor). In that case all that needs to happen is that the person demonstrates that he was a Catholic, was married without the needed authorization, and then divorced. The invalidating fact here is **a Catholic's marrying in the absence of the sacrament of matrimony**.

Another, and much more complicated matter, is the **lack** in a person getting married (Catholic or otherwise, in a Catholic ceremony or otherwise) of **something fundamental to marriage**. There are several invalidating situations: one of the spouses is homosexually inclined, or in the clutches of drug or alcohol addiction. Sometimes a spouse intentionally precludes the possibility of having children or of being faithful or of living with the other person. There are cases of serious ignorance about the nature of marriage or cases of emotional immaturity.

The Church takes up these concerns for divorced persons when there is a request by someone seeking to marry according the law of the Church. If after a thorough study the Church declares a marriage to have been null and void, it has no effect on children born of that marriage, and it doesn't assign blame for a marriage's failure. It is just a decree that a person is free to receive the sacrament of matrimony according to the rite of the Catholic Church.

If you have questions about this process, **please ask** me or any priest or deacon. We'll be happy to help.

— Father Kessler

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