

Lancaster St Bernadette Parish Bremen St Mary Parish



The Raising of Lazarus

The story of today's gospel reading

the 5th Sunday in Lent

March 18, 2018

St Bernadette Parish.

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

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

cover picture: **The Raising of Lazarus**

Painted in tempera and gold on wood panel between 1310 and 1311 by Duccio di Buoninsegna (ca 1255–ca 1319)

Kimbell Art Museum

St Mary Parish.

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

our parishes

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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

Ben Factor b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us
liturgical music

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The St Mary Parish office is at the church vestibule.

Hours: 9-11 AM, Tuesdays.

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Saint Bernadette School is located at

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www.stbernadetteschool.com

Bremen St Vincent de Paul
Lancaster St Vincent de Paul
Diocese of Columbus

Angels Nurture & Disciple (AND)

(740) 569-7738

www.svdplancasteroh.com

www.columbuscatholic.org

www.angelsAND.org

sacramental life

Where

Our parishes are where Catholics worship. We can receive the Anointing of the Sick at any appropriate place from the appropriate minister. The first reception of Eucharist and of Penance as well as the reception of Baptism, Confirmation, and Matrimony may only be **in one's own parish church**, unless with good reason the pastor deems it **necessary** to do otherwise.

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. If you are expecting (or already have) a newborn or if you 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 St Bernadette 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 Penance at least once a year.

Anointing and Care of the Sick

The priest gives the Anointing of the Sick to one who is 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."
- The priest brings 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 a wedding. Why so long? Because **this sacrament, not just the ceremony, requires serious preparation**. And the Church needs to be involved in that preparation. 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.

At Prayer with the Church

At Mass this Sunday the Church Prays

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, you Son handed himself over to death. 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.

Pope Francis asks us to pray this month

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

Hear God’s Word and Honor His Saints

Mar 18 5th Sunday in Lent	Ezekiel 37:12-14	Psalm 130 Romans 8:8-11	John 11:1-45
Mar 19, Monday <i>Saint Joseph, spouse of Mary</i>	2 Samuel 7:4-16	Psalm 89 Romans 4:13-22	Matthew 1:16-24
Mar 20, Tuesday	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 102	John 8:21-30
Mar 21, Wednesday	Daniel 3:14-95	Daniel 3	John 8:31-42
Mar 22, Thursday	Genesis 17:3-9	Psalm 105	John 8:51-59
Mar 23, Friday <i>Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop</i>	Jeremiah 20:10-13	Psalm 18	John 10:31-42
Mar 24, Saturday <i>Blessed Oscar Romero, bishop & martyr</i>	Ezekiel 37:21-28	Jeremiah 31	John 11:45-56
Mar 25 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	Isaiah 50:4-7	Psalm 22 Philippians 2:6-11	Mark 11:1-10 Mark 14:1-15:47

Mass Intentions This Week

Mar 19, Monday	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Dan Rudisille
Mar 20, Tuesday	8:20 AM	at Bremen St Mary	Charles Schmelzer
Mar 21, Wednesday	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Leon Sevigny
Mar 22, Thursday	6 PM	at St Bernadette	Robert Berens
Mar 23, Friday	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Robert Beck

The Holy Season of Lent

Fast and Abstinence

During Lent, Catholics in the United States

- **abstain from meat on all the Fridays** of Lent. Catholics 14 and older are bound by the law of abstinence;
 - **fast on 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 the Stations

On each Friday during Lent at 7 PM, St Mary and St Bernadette parishes will both each 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 remaining Fridays of Lent (Mar 23 and 30, and also April 6). 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:

Circleville	St Joseph	Sunday	Mar 18	4 PM
Bremen	St Mary	Sunday	Mar 18	3 PM
Lancaster	St Mark	Tuesday	Mar 20	7 PM



At Both Parishes

Catholic Relief Services Collection

Thank you for your generous donations to The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here at home and abroad. They **help Jesus in disguise**. Learn about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Time for Spring Cleaning

The **St Vincent de Paul Society truck** will be at St Bernadette Church to accept your donations of clean clothing and usable household items today.

Bremen St Mary Parish

May He Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Michael Shumaker's father, Richard Shumaker, who died last week.

Ministry at Mass at St Mary

+	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
5th Sunday in Lent, Mar 18, at 8:30 AM	Jeanne Schmelzer	Reagan Conrad, Charles Schoenlaub	Susan Foltz, Leo Kunkler Sr, Angi Skinner	Maurice Schmelzer family	Angi Skinner
Palm Sunday, Mar 25, at 8:30 AM	Barb VanFossen-Cook, Paul Kunkler, Linda Qualls	Caden & Cody Fyffe	Irene Kunkler, Pam Redding, Barb VanFossen-Cook	James Noll Jr family	Chris Redding

First Reception of Sacraments

Children receiving Communion this year for the first time will receive **Reconciliation today at 3 PM** at the Penance Service. First Communion will be 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. **St Vincent always needs members**. Call Angi Skinner at (740) 438-0027 if you can help.

St Bernadette Parish

Kindergarten for a Day

Children who are going to kindergarten this Fall are invited to bring their parents to **visit the St Bernadette School kindergarten class**. They can join in our activities and see why St Bernadette School might be the right choice for them. This special visit day is Friday, Mar 23, from 8:30 to 11 AM. RSVP to our school office at (740) 654-3137 to

reserve your space (and let them know about any food allergies).

- St Bernadette School offers a full day kindergarten program that fosters the academic, social and emotional growth and development of each child in a very family-friendly environment. Studies show that the advantages of a full-day program far outweigh a half-day, including but certainly not limited to, full-day kindergartners learning more literacy and mathematics than those in half-day programs.
- We follow the State of Ohio Academic Standards and a great deal of our curriculum is presented through various forms of literature. We also do many hands-on and writing activities. We offer a small class size which allows individual attention for students to best meet their needs and help them to reach their fullest potential; we offer ability-based grouping to challenge and support every kindergarten student.

Come see all that St. Bernadette School has to offer! In addition to classroom observation, parents will be offered a tour of our building, and a Q&A session with our principal and secretary. Financial assistance is available.

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:

- You must be a graduating high school student from the diocese.
- You 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 School Registration

St Bernadette School announces **invites you to register now your children** grades preschool through 5th for the 2018-2019 school year. Private tours and classroom observations are available at any time.

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.

Tuition Assistance

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.

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.)

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.

Ministry at Mass at St Bernadette

+	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion
Saturday, Mar 17, at 4 PM Vigil of 5th Sunday in Lent	Patrick Gins	Mallory, Mason, & Mitchell Ortiz	Susan Garrett Jim & Becky Kuhn Brad Rider Craig Shaw Mickey Steyaert
Sunday, Mar 18, at 11 AM 5th Sunday in Lent	Dennis Forquer	Anna Hartig, Samantha Kerns, Daniel Turner	Pat Dreyer Jim & Rita Merk Jean Robertson David Shonk Amy Woo
Monday, 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Daschel Neighbor, Olivia Reynolds	Pat Dreyer Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Morgan Cox, Silus Hopkins	Angie Christy Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Kyndra Nagle, Amelia Robertson	Lee Guinan Paul Lonergan
Friday, 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Isabelle Lazar, Hyde O'Rielley	Rita Merk Mary Jane Vajen
Saturday, Mar 24, at 4 PM Vigil of Palm Sunday	Robert Christy, Sandy Landefeld	Joey Mannella, Avee & Drew Solt, Jack Tencza	Angie Christy Marguerite Grimm Joyce Guenther Lee Guinan Denise McGuire Kathy Wagner
Sunday, Mar 25, at 11 AM Palm Sunday	John Hartig, David Shonk	Collin & Emma McCrady, Caroline Messerly, Gunner Robertson	Terry Carpenter Tara Craaybeek Teresa Hartig Jim & Rita Merk Anna Sevigny

Here and There

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.

Weekly Confessions & Weekday Masses

But these times sometimes change, so it's safest 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 AM on First Sat	5:30 PM Thu, 3 PM Sat, 8:30 AM on First 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	VARIE S	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 First Fri

Religion and Science

Ohio Dominican University will present Br Guy Consolmagno, SJ at 7 PM on Tuesday, Mar 20, to Sansbury Hall, as he presents *Religion, Science and the Common Good*. Br Guy is **director of the Vatican Observatory** and president of the Vatican Observatory Foundation. There is no charge for his presentation.

in the Diocese of Columbus

Mass of Healing

On the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Monday, Mar 19, the bi-monthly Mass of Healing and healing service happens at St Joseph Cathedral in Columbus. Following the Mass, the healing service begins with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and veneration of relics of the True Cross. Each person has an opportunity to speak individually with one of several priests present to discuss his or her particular situation and receive a prayer of healing; the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is also available, concluding with Benediction. **All persons who seek Christ's healing are invited** – especially those who suffer with physical illness and infirmities and those who seek emotional and spiritual healing. **Caregivers, family members, and members of the medical community** are invited. For information call (614) 224-1295.

Fisher Catholic Musical

Dedicated to John Dye, former teacher who passed away on Feb 8 at the age of 90, Fisher Catholic High School presents the musical *Guys and Dolls* on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Mar 22, 23, and 24, at 7 PM in the school gym. A live orchestra treats audiences to the classic songs, *Luck Be a Lady*, *A Bushel and a Peck*, and *Sit Down You're Rockin' the*

Boat. Visit www.fishercatholic.org for nightly fun, online ticket sales, and to learn how to become a patron of the arts. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$6 for students, and are available at the door. Concessions are available. For information, contact Mary Walsh at mwalsh@saintmarylancaster.org or (740) 654-1650.

Carry the Cross

Men of the Holy Catholic Church, complete your Lenten fast with a truly masculine prayer and participate in **Carry the Cross** on Holy Saturday, Mar 31, at Clear Creek Metro Park. Arrive for Morning Prayer at 7:45 AM, hike begins with the reading of the first station at 8 AM. Final prayer is at 3 PM. Carry the Cross is a **12-mile Stations of the Cross hike sponsored by Wilderness Outreach** for the men, fathers, and sons of the Columbus Diocese. A cross constructed of 3"x6" timber, approximately 10 feet long with a 7-foot cross beam is carried by the men on the journey with the Stations of the Cross prayed every mile or so. Men should bring a day pack with 2-3 liters of water, snacks, and rain gear if appropriate. During the hike silent meditation on our Lord's passion, praying the rosary, and other communal and traditional prayers are also encouraged. Last year 138 laymen, fathers and sons, participated. Partial participation is possible. The starting location will be in the parking lot and shelter house at the Barneby Hambleton area at the western end of the park. For information contact John Bradford at wildernessoutreach2560@gmail.com or (614) 679-6761.

Examining the Passion

A detailed examination of **the physical aspects of the passion and death of Christ** happens on Wednesday, Mar 21, at 7 PM at the Lancaster St Mary Parish Spirit Center by lay catechist Tony Stout from Columbus St Cecilia Parish. This presentation is not for the faint of heart or children, yet it may help you better understand the sacrifice Christ made for our salvation.

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, 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. Call Dave Ball at (614) 753-1696 or Bob Muetzel at (740) 743-3848.

Silent Retreat for Women

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women presents a **women's silent retreat** on **Being Present in the Here & Now** at St Therese Retreat Center in Columbus from Friday, Apr 13, at 5 PM through Sunday, Apr 15, at noon. The retreat leader is Fr Sean Dooley. Cost is \$130 which includes meals. Contact DCCW president Katie Boesch at kboesch@columbuscatholic.org or (614) 228-8601.

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

Donations are being gathered for the live and silent auctions at the **Bid O'Luck dinner auction** happening on Saturday, Apr 28, with the theme of **Saturday Night Irish Fever**. Contact Milea Quaintance at (740) 689-3288 to **donate goods, cash or services**. Bid O'Luck **raffle tickets are now on sale** for one \$7,500 prize and five \$500 prizes. Tickets (\$100 each) can be purchased after Mass today and on Apr 14 & 15 or by contacting Kellie Shonk at (740) 654-1231 or keshonk@cducation.org. Buy a raffle ticket for yourself, or gather your friends and split the cost.

Help in the Opiate Addiction Epidemic

For **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 Weekend for Your Marriage

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.

Bethesda Healing Program

The Bethesda Healing Program is held the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. It is **for mothers and fathers who have suffered the experience of abortion**. They gather twice a month to share, heal, and grow. The first step of the healing journey is to acknowledge the hurt; the second step is to seek support. They provide a confidential safe place where anyone hurting from abortion can come for healing, prayer and love. To learn about time and place call the office at (614) 718-0277. Discover more at www.bethesdahealing.org. Confidential ministry support lines are (614) 309-2651 and (614) 309-0157.

You are invited to **Rich in Mercy**, a special Bethesda Healing Ministry **benefit event**, on Thursday, Apr 26, at St Agatha Church. Mass is at 5:30 PM followed by dinner and a program. The celebrant and speaker will be Bishop James Wall, bishop of Gallup, NM. Featured harpist is Mrs Kathleen Tully, director of music at St Patrick Church. An appeal will be made at the dinner for your help in continuing this ministry of hope and healing. Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased at bethesdahealing.org or by calling Diana Davis at (614) 718-0277.

Thinking About Our High Holy Days

The holiest week of the year stretches from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday. We call it Holy Week. Let's take a look at these holy days. They begin with the Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Palm Sunday, and they stretch through the quiet days of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Then comes the great Triduum, the three holiest days. And it all concludes with Easter.

PALM SUNDAY

This is a special Sunday liturgy with two very different parts. We begin our prayer outside, in the front of church. We listen to the gospel of the palms, remembering the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on his last great visit to the city of the Temple. That entry became a kind of triumphal procession, like an ancient version of the ticker-tape parade. Our own palms are blessed, and we carry them into church in a procession. It is a procession; we are acting out something of the solemn memorial of the crowd that was so fickle that it shouted its hurrahs for Jesus one day and called for him to be crucified before the week was out. That is how we all live: we have the right instincts about his holiness, and then we proceed to turn away from him. Our procession is a solemn thing. We move in a slow and stately way behind the cross, two or three abreast, into church, up the center aisle to the front, where we bow and go to the side aisles from which we take our places. Palm Sunday Mass continues much as Sunday Mass always does, but on a much more somber note, for the Gospel is the long Passion narrative, this year in Saint Mark's version. Several people join in the reading of this Gospel; the priest has the role of Jesus, not because he is worthy but because this is what a priest has to be at Mass. After all, that is the main thing the priest lives to be.

THE TRIDUUM

Once we get to the Triduum, the three holy days, the big ones, we get to the heart of the message of Christianity. It is not about being nice. It is about how "Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again." It begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday evening and concludes with the Great East Vigil on Holy Saturday night. In the meantime, there are no other liturgies. The Catholic world goes silent and there are no other Masses during the Triduum, except the liturgy of the Passion of the Lord. It is not a Mass, and there just isn't a Mass anywhere in the world for those few days. Any Catholic serious about growing in the Faith will make a serious effort to attend these three awesome liturgies.

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday evening Mass begins as a festal liturgy. It celebrates the Lord's Last Supper. On the night before he died, he joined with twelve men whom he called his "apostles" to celebrate Judaism's greatest holy day, the feast of Passover. For Jews, that remains an evening to remember how God freed the Israelite slaves from Egypt. That feast was celebrated not in the temple or in a synagogue but in the dining room. The main-course was a sacrificed lamb, whose blood was daubed on the doorpost of the house to recall the first Passover when the blood of the lamb warded off the destroying angel and saved the people of Israel. Also served was unleavened bread, flat and portable bread for the traveling the Israelites had had to do the day after their first Passover meal. Glasses of wine were drunk with the special prayer of Passover blessing. This was the context of the Last Supper of the Lord. Jesus was the new lamb at the Last Supper. When he gave out the bread and blessed the wine, he dedicated the giving up of his body and the pouring out of his own blood the next day: "This is my body which will be given up for you. This is my blood which will be poured out for you." He made this gift something to be given again and again when he told his apostles, "Do this in memory of me." And we remember that again-and-again, for "When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim [his] death ... until [he] come[s] in glory." At that Last Supper he gave us the Holy Eucharist and the Holy Priesthood that makes that Eucharist happen. The men present at the Last Supper weren't the only disciples who were with Jesus in Jerusalem at that Passover season. They weren't even the best ones. But they were the ones he had chosen to be his apostles, to act in his person as his priests of the New Covenant. At that first Eucharist, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples to show them what unselfish service was to be required of his priests. At our annual memorial, a very beautiful option is the washing of the feet of twelve men by the priest celebrant. Regrettably, we can't do that in our parish celebration because the artificial knees of the priest preclude this. But prayer for just such a spirit of service, for him and for all priests, is part of our prayer that evening.

Our solemn procession of removal of the Blessed Sacrament to a special place, in the Mary Good Building, recalls how the Lord and his Twelve went out to the Garden of Gethsemani to pray—and to be arrested. It is a procession in which we all walk together as a slow and stately honor guard, singing praise in the ancient hymn of the *Pange Lingua* (Sing My Tongue the Savior's Glory). What we begin with incense and with singing we end in silence, remaining in prayer for as long as we are able, spending the rest of our evening prayerfully in a vigil with the Lord. We remember the piercing question of Jesus to his drowsy apostles in the garden: "Could you not watch one hour with me?"

Before the rest of the people leave, the priest and the sacristan and the servers quietly slip away to "strip the altar," putting *everything* away, and leaving the sanctuary of our church a barren and empty place, to recall how the followers of Jesus were bereft of his presence from the time of his arrest. When we finally do leave the church that evening, we do so in silence, with no song and no socializing. It is the beginning of the three days of silent prayer.

Next week I will continue reflections on the Triduum and on how we observe it in our parishes.

— Father Kessler

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