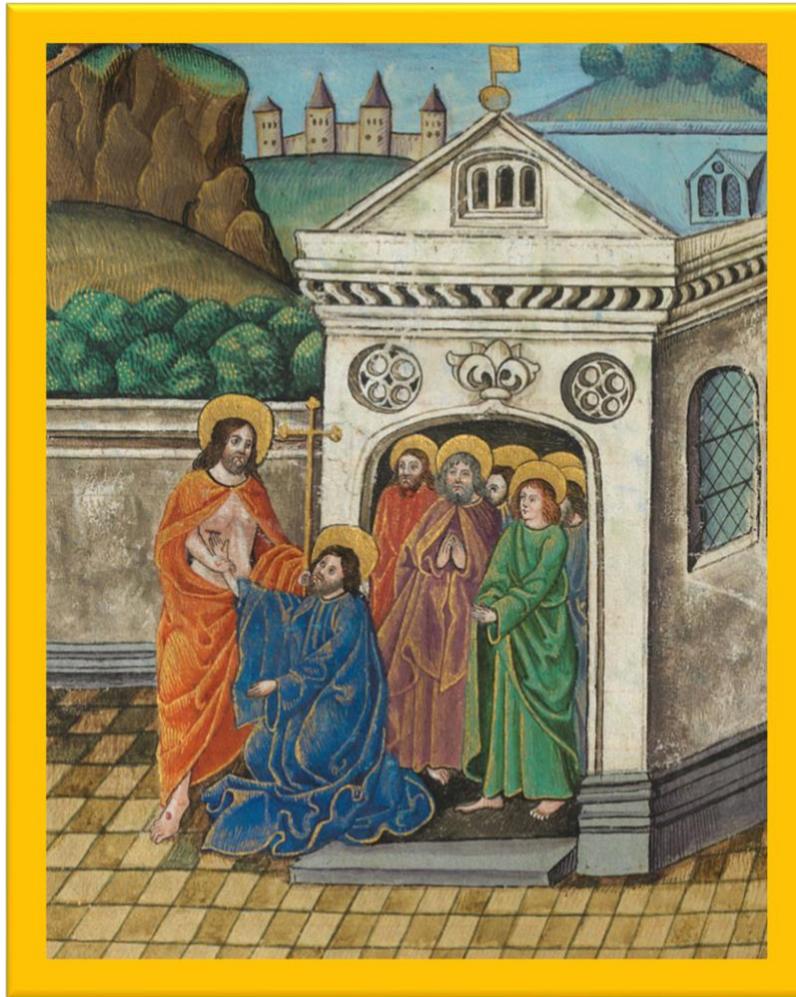


**Saint Bernadette Parish**

**Saint Mary Parish**

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

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



**The ‘Incredulity’ of Thomas**

scene of today’s Gospel

**The Second Sunday of Easter**

*April 8, 2018*

## St Bernadette Parish

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

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

cover picture: **The Incredulity** [sic] of Thomas from an English manuscript (1504)

This inaccurate title misses the point that Thomas is doing as the Lord told him: “Be not unbelieving but believe.”

The National Library of Wales

## St Mary Parish

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

### our parishes.

<b>Fr Thomas Kessler</b> <i>pastor</i>	(614) 634 • 0499	<i>wnthomaskessler @ icloud . com</i>	
			<b>at St Bernadette Parish</b>
<b>Jeff Carpenter</b> <i>deacon</i>	(740) 681 • 9918	<i>carpenter.277 @ osu . edu</i>	
<b>Mark Scarpitti</b> <i>deacon</i>	(740) 438 • 3970	<i>dcn.mark @ frontier . com</i>	
<b>Ann Essman</b> <i>pastoral minister</i>	(740) 653 • 9347	<i>aessman001 @ att . net</i>	
<b>Steve Huber</b> <i>facilities coordinator</i>	(740) 654 • 3137	<i>shuber57 @ yahoo . com</i>	
<b>Angie &amp; Kent Kerns</b> <i>religious education</i>	(740) 654 • 2588	<i>kwkerns @ gmail . com</i>	
<b>Liz Latorre</b> <i>liturgical music</i>	(740) 243 • 1872	<i>lizlatorre @ gmail . com</i>	

**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**

<b>Ben Factor</b> <i>liturgical music</i>	<i>b_factor @ lancaster . k12 . oh . us</i>
<b>Sarah Borah</b>	<i>sborah920 @ gmail . com</i>

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

Hours: 9-11 AM, Tuesdays.

602 Marietta St, Bremen, OH 43107 (740) 569 • 7738

**at both parishes**

<b>Stephen Karnes</b> <i>business manager</i>	(740) 654 • 1893	<i>stbernbook @ gmail . com</i>
<b>Kathy Kehnast</b> <i>pastoral coordinator</i>	(740) 654 • 1893	<i>stbernparish @ yahoo . com</i>
<b>Julie &amp; Chase Stalford</b> <i>youth ministry</i>	(740) 808 • 7294	<i>maristellaspri @ gmail . com</i>

**]Saint Bernadette School**

<b>Pam Eltringham</b> <i>principal</i>	(740) 654 • 3137	<i>peltring @ cdeducation . org</i>
<b>Barb Huber</b> <i>secretary</i>	(740) 654 • 3137	<i>bhuber @ cdeducation . org</i>

**Saint Bernadette School** is located at

1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701

*stbernlan @ cdeducation . org*

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

[www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org)

[www.angelsAND.org](http://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

## The Church Prays at Mass today

God of everlasting mercy,  
 who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast  
 kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,  
 increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,  
 that all may grasp and rightly understand  
 in what font they have been washed,  
 by whose Spirit they have been reborn,  
 by whose Blood they have been redeemed.  
 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 Regina Coeli

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

### Let us pray.

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

*Prayed by Catholics, as the Angelus is prayed, at sunrise, noon, and  
 sundown, only the Regina Coeli is used during the Easter season. It is a  
 great prayer for busy families: You do have time for this!*

## Pope Francis Asks Us to Pray This Month

that economists may have the courage to reject  
 any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.

## Mass Intentions This Week

Apr 9, Monday	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Donna Abbott
Apr 10, Tuesday	8:20 AM	at Bremen St Mary	Steve German
Apr 11, Wednesday	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Jean Monaghan
Apr 12, Thursday	6 PM	at St Bernadette	Louise Mathias
Apr 13, Friday	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Barbara Egan

## Belonging to the Church

It makes sense that Holy Mother the Church expects that we will  
 worship in the parish where we live. There are exceptions: military  
 people, college students, people visiting or caring for relatives, and the  
 like. But we all live somewhere and have neighbors. Ordinarily we go  
 to the Church there, with them. If you have moved to another place (or  
 from another place), for more or less all of the foreseeable future, **you  
 should register in the parish** in the new place. If you are going to be  
 a practicing Catholic, you will most likely practice your faith with the  
 people who live nearby and in the church that is nearby. We shouldn't  
 dismiss the connection to the local parish lightly.

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

We are not like some Christian denominations for whom member-  
 ship in a congregation is a matter of taste preferences and is  
 permanent. **Our permanent membership is in the Catholic  
 Church**; parish membership needs to be registered with the parish  
 where we worship each Sunday. Our "home parish" is important to  
 us, but, if we don't live there anymore, it is not likely to be our  
 actual place of worship on anything like a regular basis. For  
 purposes of baptism, first Communion, confirmation, marriage,  
 sacramental sponsorship, burial, and such, the parish where we have  
 registered and where we ordinarily worship is the one that counts.

This has been the practice of the Catholic Church for a very long  
 time, but it only becomes obvious when people grow up, establish a  
 home, and sometimes have to move to another place. Whether it is  
 here or there, register in the parish where you worship on Sundays!

## Hear God's Word

<b>Apr 8</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <b>(Divine Mercy)</b>	<b>Acts</b>	<b>4:32-35</b>	<b>Ps 118</b> <b>1 John 5:1-6</b>	<b>John</b>	<b>20:19-31</b>
Apr 9, Monday <i>The Annunciation</i>	Isaiah	7:10-8:10	Ps 40 Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke	1:26-38
Apr 10, Tuesday	Acts	4:32-37	Ps 93	John	3:7-15
Apr 11, Wednesday <i>Saint Stanislaus, bishop &amp; martyr</i>	Acts	5:17-26	Ps 34	John	3:16-21
Apr 12, Thursday	Acts	5:27-33	Ps 34	John	3:31-36
Apr 13, Friday <i>Saint Martin I, pope &amp; martyr</i>	Acts	5:34-42	Ps 27	John	6:1-15
Apr 14, Saturday	Acts	6:1-7	Ps 33	John	6:16-21
<b>Apr 15</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Acts</b>	<b>3:13-19</b>	<b>Ps 4</b> <b>1 John 2:1-5</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>24:35-48</b>

# Both Parishes

## March Contributions

St Bernadette	Mar 4	Mar 11	Mar 18	Mar 25	Totals
weekly	7,857	6,912	5,822	5,278	<b>25,869</b>
electronic funds transfer	2,818	176	176	176	<b>3,346</b>
education fund	820	91	50	50	<b>1,011</b>
gifts	150	200			<b>350</b>
<b>total to parish</b>	<b>11,645</b>	<b>7,379</b>	<b>6,048</b>	<b>5,504</b>	<b>30,576</b>
Catholic Relief Services	169	43	26	50	<b>288</b>
Rice Bowl	50		1	152	<b>203</b>
Good Friday	20		1	60	<b>81</b>
<b>total sent away</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>572</b>
Bremen St Mary	Mar 4	Mar 11	Mar 18	Mar 25	Totals
weekly	4,789	1,639	2,383	1,276	<b>10,087</b>
<b>total to parish</b>					
Catholic Relief Services	190	20	50		<b>260</b>
Rice Bowl			105	40	<b>145</b>
Good Friday		20	55	15	<b>90</b>
St Vincent	731	187	85	20	<b>1,023</b>
to food pantry (fish fry)				213	<b>213</b>
<b>total sent away</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>1,731</b>

## Rice Bowl

It's **not too late** to return your Rice Bowls in the collection.

## Help for Recovering Churches

Next week we will take up the collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This supports the Church in over 20 countries, many of which are still struggling to recover in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. **Your support restores the Church** and builds the future in this region. Prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week.

## St Bernadette Parish

### Still Friends after All These Years

Join the **Friends Forever** gathering on Thursday, Apr 19, as they meet for lunch at Main Street Bistro. Contact Ann Essman at (740) 654-1893 for information.

### 5th Sunday Collection

Members of the **St Vincent de Paul** Society will take a collection **at the church doors** on Apr 28 and 29, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday this month. Please be generous. The society helps the needy in the Lancaster area. They operate on income from their store and from your donations.

### Ministry at Mass at St Bernadette

+	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion
Apr 7, at 4 PM Saturday, Vigil 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Amy Woo	Brennan Quaintance, Diana & Sarah Woo	Susan Garrett Marguerite Grimm Joyce Guenther Lee Guinan Mickey Steyaert Kathy Wagner
Apr 8, at 11 AM 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Jim Merk	Dominic & Emeline Neighbor, Gunner Robertson	Tara Craaybeek Pat Dreyer Rita Merk Ben Peters Larry Sanford Teresa Scarpitti
Monday, 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Kyndra Nagle, Amelia Robertson	Pat Dreyer Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Silus Hopkins, Hyde O'Rielley	Angie Christy Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Morgan Cox, Olivia Reynolds	Lee Guinan Paul Lonergan
Friday, 8:20 PM	Jim Merk	Isabelle Lazar, Daschel Neighbor	Rita Merk Mary Jane Vajen
Apr 14, at 4 PM Saturday, Vigil 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Sandy Landefeld	Kendall Cox, Becca Fuller, Addy Myers	Terry Carpenter Bob & Angie Christy Kathy Kehnast Jim & Becky Kuhn
Apr 15, at 11 AM 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Teresa Scarpitti	Jack Tencza, Brooke & Bryson Vogel	Pat Gins John & Teresa Hartig Jean Robertson David Shonk Becky Wickhan

### Entering St Bernadette School

St Bernadette School announces **invites you to register now your children** grades preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> for the 2018-2019 school year. Private tours and classroom observations are available at any time. 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. For information, call the school office at (740) 654-3137.

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

**Elementary grades** (full-day kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) offer a highly respected program of academic excellence and positive experiences.

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.

## Bremen St Mary Parish

### You Can Feed the Hungry

The Bremen Food Pantry needs margarine or butter (among other things!). Place your donation in the refrigerator in the kitchen at St Mary parish hall. This will help the **Pantry Open House** in Bremen, on Saturday, Apr 14, from 9-11 AM, when any family in need can stop by to receive food assistance, with no prior registration or sign up needed.

### You Can Help the Needy

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.

### Ministry at Mass at St Mary

+	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Apr 8 at 8:30 AM	Susan Foltz	Reagan Conrad, Charles Schoenlaub	Susan Foltz, Leo Kunkler Sr, Jim Schmelzer	Leo Kunkler Sr family	Jim Schmelzer
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Apr 15 at 8:30 AM	Pete Kunkler	Brooke Holt Carly Kunkler	Irene Kunkler, Joe & Cathy Young	Pete Kunkler family	Ralph Mohler

## Here and There

### He Appeared to Them

On Saturday, Apr 14, from 10:30 AM to 3 PM **Sister Louis Mary Passeri OP** in the Lancaster St Mary Church Spirit Center, will guide **reflections on the appearances of Jesus after His resurrection.** Call St Mary parish office at (740) 653-0997 to register. Fee of \$15 includes lunch and is due to the office prior to this day of recollection.

## Diocese of Columbus

### Why Do We Believe?

St Mark Church presents Fr Thomas Blau OP speaking on the theme **Why We Believe in the Resurrection** on Apr 15, 16, and 17 at 7 PM.

## The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring, Tra La

The St Mary Teacher Association **Spring Flower Sale** takes orders from Apr 3-16. Order forms are available on their website: [www.saintmarylancaster.com](http://www.saintmarylancaster.com) or at the school office at (740) 654-1632. Orders can be picked up at St Mary School on Friday, May 4, and Saturday, May 5. All proceeds benefit St Mary School tuition.

## Irish Alumni Golf

Alumni of St. Mary, Bishop Fenwick and Fisher Catholic High Schools will play at Pleasant Valley Golf Course on Saturday, June 9, at 9 AM at \$150 per team. For information and to check availability contact Molly Neighbor at (740) 654-1231 or [mneighbor@cducation.org](mailto:mneighbor@cducation.org).

## A Saturday Morning of Mass & Prayer

A community-wide Mass and prayer breakfast at 9 AM, followed by adoration of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament will happen at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church in Columbus on Saturday, Apr 14. Confession as well as babysitting will be available. This event is sponsored by the Columbus Catholic Renewal under the authority of Bishop Campbell. For information, visit: [www.cccolumbus.org](http://www.cccolumbus.org) or call (614) 500-8178.

## Put a Spring in Your Step

That's what you'll have after a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend**. The next two weekends are July 13-15 and Sept 14-16, both in Central Ohio. Marriage Encounter is where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each other. For information or to apply, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www.wmwecolumbus.org](http://www.wmwecolumbus.org).

## Women Praying and Reflecting

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](mailto:kboesch@columbuscatholic.org) or (614) 228-8601.

## With a Little Bid O'Luck

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](mailto:keshonk@cducation.org). Buy a raffle ticket for yourself, or gather your friends and split the cost.

## Healing 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](http://www.columbuscatholic.org/drug-awareness) or contact the Social Concerns office at (614) 241-2540.

## Life After Abortion

The Bethesda Healing Program is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://bethesdahealing.org) or by calling Diana Davis at (614) 718-0277.

## Jail & Prison Ministry Conference

The **Living as Missionary Disciples** conference is for both experienced prison ministers and those interested in prison ministry. It happens on Saturday, April 28, from 9:30 AM to 3 PM at St Elizabeth Church in Columbus. Keynote speaker is Ron Zeilinger, executive director of Dismas Ministry, a national Catholic prison outreach. Conference topics include restorative justice, models of ministry, reentry ministry, and advocacy. Cost is free. Register by Apr 24 at [www.columbuscatholic.org/prison-ministry-criminal-justice](http://www.columbuscatholic.org/prison-ministry-criminal-justice) or call (614) 241-2540.

## Weekly Confessions & Masses

But these times sometimes change, so to call ahead!							
parish	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Penance
<b>Bremen St Mary</b>		8:20 AM					8 AM Sun
<b>Lancaster St Bernadette</b>	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
<i>Lancaster St Mary</i>	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM			4 PM Sat
<i>Lancaster St Mark</i>	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM		5:30 PM Sat
<i>Sugar Grove St Joseph</i>	VARIE S	NOON	7 AM	NOON	NOON		½ hour before Mass
<i>Circleville St Joseph</i>	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		9 AM		4 PM Sat
<i>Logan St John</i>	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM	4 PM Sat
<i>Fisher Catholic HS</i>					2:40 PM		2 PM on First Fri

## Together ... Alone with God

Life is hectic. This spring, slow down and spend a quiet weekend with Our Lord. Attend an **Alone with God** retreat at Catholic Familyland in Bloomingdale, Ohio.

- **Men's retreat** is Apr 12-15;
- **Women's retreat** is Apr 26-29.

Step away from the intensity of daily life to rediscover your Father's love in the silence. Retreat includes inspiring conferences to deepen your knowledge of God, spiritual direction for your journey of faith, abundant graces given through the sacraments, and rest. Learn more or register at [afc.org](http://afc.org).



# What Bigotry Used to Look Like ... and How It Looks Today

My dad grew up on North Ewing Street in Lancaster. There were ten children. Dad once told me the story of the time in the mid-20s when his mom made all the kids come inside. She had heard that there was to be a Ku Klux Klan parade past their house and eventually up the hill behind it to burn a cross. Earlier a **cross had been burned** facing the grounds of Saint Mary Parish in Lancaster. That's how I remember Dad's telling of his childhood memories of fear in the face of that show of the force of bigotry. **It happened here**, in our hometown.

The Klan hasn't always been about Catholics, but it has always been about bigotry. It has raised its ugly head in three eras in the past century and a half.

1. In the first of its eruptions it was a violent movement that wanted to keep former slaves from any attempt to take or hold political power in the South in the decade or two after the Civil War.
2. It rose a second time after the First World War as a political movement, especially strong in the Midwest, against non-Caucasians, non-Protestants (mainly Catholics and Jews), and immigrants. That was when Dad was introduced to the ways of the Klan.
3. In the third era, the return of the Klan was in opposition to the newly acquired civil rights of African Americans that were such an important part of life in the 1950s and 1960s. That time, sad to say, Catholics were so well integrated into American life—and sometimes so forgetful of what it meant to have been on the receiving end of bigotry—that some even joined in the Klan's rejection of the “outsiders.”

The tools of the Klan were violence. They didn't intend to destroy all members of the groups they opposed. They wanted to exclude them from this country or political or economic power here, from their own neighborhoods or schools—and especially from intermarriage with white Anglo-Saxon Protestant Americans. **They caused terror**—in the strict sense of the word: violence being used to strike terror in the “enemy” to frighten him into submission ... or even into departure.

The Klan of my father's childhood was not the first rejection Catholics faced in our country: In colonial times our Catholic Faith was outlawed or we were penalized, in various ways and at various times, in each of the thirteen colonies. And in the period before the Civil War, the “Know Nothings” formed a political party that even endorsed a successful candidate for president of the United States. These Know Nothings fomented murderous riots against Catholics in many cities across the United States.

**The bigotry is back.** So far, it has not taken violent shape. It is still at the stage of accusing those Catholics who are serious about our Faith of being dangerous to our Republic and to the moral life of our people. Maybe it has never really left us. A few times in recent years it has involved a sacrilegious disruption of our most sacred ceremonies, misuse of churches and even of the Blessed Sacrament. It has been expressed **in political rejection of Catholics and other Christians serious about their Faith from office, from work in the entertainment industry, or from academic careers.**

Now the point of the bigotry is no longer an ardent Protestant protest. Nor is it an economic jealousy of the jobs our immigrants might be taking (although rejection of all Mexican immigrants may still have some of this economic motivation). Now it is a **hatred for the Catholic teaching about sexuality and life**, which has always been fundamental to all of Christianity, but which has been (or is being) largely abandoned by some mainline Protestant communities and a disturbing number of nominal Catholics.

There seems to be an exception clause for any Catholic who says **what President Kennedy unfortunately said in 1960** about his way of living his Catholicism. In a nutshell (and in my paraphrase) Kennedy said—and many nominal Catholics say today—“Sure I am Catholic, but that's a private matter, and it has nothing to do with my life in the public square.”

The really surprising thing (surprising to people who don't know about such historical precedents as Europe during the French Revolution, Russia, Spain, and Mexico during their revolutions) is that **bigots are no longer the unsophisticated** who made themselves foolish by wearing sheets over their heads and burning crosses. No, the anti-Catholic bigotry is now expressed by politicians, academics, and entertainers. Important instances are the people at NPR, the New York Times, and CBS who have told lies in their reporting about the sexual misconduct of a few priests and the failure to discipline firmly enough those priests found guilty of such misconduct. We were all shocked by the extent of the crimes that have been committed.

Some bishops and priests did not act firmly enough or soon enough to stop it. But **there have been lies**. I don't mean the victim/accusers. A few of them may have lied, but most of the accusations of abuse are credible. It is particularly sad that a priest, who often has the trust of the young people and their families, should abuse that trust. But **it does not follow that any accused person is guilty until proven innocent**. That is not the way we do things in America. Except when we are dealing with those whom we are out to destroy. A person accused of being dangerous must be removed from the potential to inflict further harm. And then he should have his due process rights respected. That order of things wasn't always followed. Those who violated that principle did the Church and the young people — even the accused criminals — an injustice.

But the bigotry is going international. The accusations against our Faith are grounded in something that doesn't come from a quest for justice. This is **the bigotry of people who wish to pull the Church down**. Pray for the champions of our Faith. And **pray confidently**. When he gave the keys to the kingdom of heaven to Peter—and through him to his 265 successors as pope—he promised that the gates of hell will not prevail against him. Pray that we, the Church's children, may not be afraid to stand firm in our Faith.

— Father Kessler

# The Unity of Marital Love: *Humanae Vitae*'s Paradoxical Wisdom

part five

by Bishop Thomas Olmsted of the Diocese of Phoenix

When a wedge is driven between marital love and the procreation of children (which contraception does), countless other evils inevitably follow, evils such as sex being portrayed as a commodity for recreation with no relation to marriage and children, attempts to justify homosexual acts, and the proliferation of pornography.

Already in 1968, in his encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, #17, Paul VI predicted, with accuracy, four dire consequences of rejecting the moral norms for birth regulation:

- Contraceptive practices would lead to marital infidelity and a general lowering of morality;
- Respect for women would decrease as they were seen increasingly as objects of pleasure rather than persons to be loved and to be treated as equals;
- Governments would coerce persons to act against their consciences and moral convictions.;
- Couples would begin to think they had unlimited dominion over their own bodies, thereby losing a sense of cooperating with God in bringing forth new life.

All four of these tragedies have occurred in the past 40 years, just as Paul VI had foretold. Divorce and pornography have increased in manifold proportions across America and Europe, and wreaked havoc especially for children and women. Increasingly the human body is seen as an object to be manipulated, perforated, and even eliminated if it is getting in “my” way, rather than being considered a sacred vessel where God wishes to dwell. The gifts of masculinity and femininity, motherhood and fatherhood, have been twisted and distorted by detaching them from their relationship with God our Creator and His providential plan for man and woman from the beginning. While all these evils harm society and tarnish the dignity of human persons, I should like to focus especially on the Third prediction of Paul VI, the coercion by public authorities of persons to violate their consciences.

## Coercion by the government and courts

Paul VI, in *Humanae Vitae*, #17, asked the question:

*“Who will prevent public authorities from favoring what they believe to be the most effective contraceptive methods and from mandating that everyone must use them, whenever they consider it necessary?”*

Here in America in the last few years, legislation is being proposed in many states, and has already passed in some, which coerces pharmacists and other healthcare workers to act contrary to their consciences in dispensing materials which are contraceptive and abortifacient.

## Rights of conscience are basis of all rights

It is indeed ironic that many supporters of “mandatory contraception” legislation advocate for a “separation of Church and state” when persons of faith legitimately speak out on matters of public concern, but they have no problem with the government forcing Church organizations and its members to violate the tenets of their faith. The First Amendment, of course, does not advocate a separation of Church and state at all, but rather the protection of religious freedom from the state. Our founding fathers intended all persons to have the equal right to voice their opinions, including those with religious convictions. Even more, they knew that it was imperative that the state not infringe upon the religious beliefs of its citizens.

While the examples cited above provide proof of Paul VI's prophetic claims, it is important for Catholics to continue engaging our culture, defending the dignity and rights of all persons, and working on legislation that will protect the “rights of conscience” in these matters.

We do well to remember the words of our late Holy Father John Paul II, “*Respect for conscience on its journey towards the truth is increasingly perceived as the foundation of the cumulative rights of the person.*” (*Veritatis Splendor*, 31) Whether the state respects the consciences of its citizens or not serves as a barometer of its respect for their dignity and basic human rights.

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*This is the 5<sup>th</sup> part of a five-part series from Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix which originally appeared in The Catholic Sun, newspaper of the Diocese of Phoenix, between July and September of 2005. Read: Humanae Vitae, the encyclical letter of Pope Paul VI on the Regulation of Birth.*

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*We are grateful for the permission to reprint these reflections during this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year (published July 1968) of this difficult yet very wise encyclical of Blessed Paul.*

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