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(Pentecost/
Ordinary Time)

The Memorare

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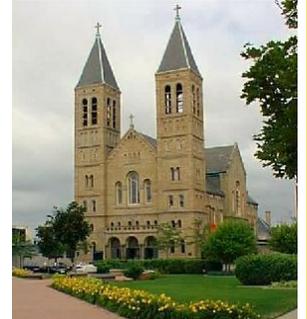


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The bi-monthly newsletter of the Parishes of
St. Bernard of Clairvaux and
St. Mary of the Assumption – Akron, Ohio

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly to you, O virgin of virgins, our Mother. To you do we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer us.
(attributed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux)*



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A Word from Father Chris

As I have said and will say many times, the Church is not just a building! In fact, it is most importantly a community! These past two months have made that clear as for the most part many church buildings sat empty as church communities wondered each day what was next and did their best to stay afloat and find ways to connect and look after each other. And we have not done this without the help of God.

We are always a community guided and fortified by the Holy Spirit! During Holy Week, there was a theme in all of the homilies about how even in the Passion of Christ and in the worst of the Church's history, it suffered and strived as a community, led by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit has kept the Church together through so much difficulty and the Holy Spirit continues to arrange the placement and strength of the living stones and the bonds among us needed to be the beautiful dwelling we are in Christ. During this coronavirus response time the past two months, many of us as staff and leaders of the parish have thought and prayed hard about how the Spirit has guided us and is guiding us still.

In this issue, please see a number of the results of this pondering and praying. Most immediately relevant is a guide on how we are going to need to operate in order to be safe during our "responsible return" to praying the Mass. In this issue are also a few testimonies of how the Holy Spirit has been doing some great work in the hearts of those who believe in the far past and most recently. Hopefully in reading such testimony we see that "The COVID" aka "The Rona" aka "Coronavirus" aka "COVID-19" are just four more names for one more challenge presented to the Church to confront and add to the long list of challenges it has confronted and "risen" from.

On May 25th, we resumed the normal weekend and weekday Mass schedule, including 8:00 PM Sunday Mass! Please know that indefinitely for the time being there is not an obligation to attend any Mass. For those coming back to Mass, however, there will be a number of safety precautions we need to observe. Masses will still be available to stream online and you may attend Mass online and then come for communion after the 4:30, 9, 10 and Noon Masses. The times for this "drive-thru" communion will be from 5:45-6:15 PM on Saturday evening, and 11:10-11:45 AM and 1:40-2:30 PM on Sunday afternoon at St. Bernard and from 10:10-10:45 AM at St. Mary. The assumption is that you attend Mass via radio, television, or internet and then drive to church to receive Holy Communion. Perhaps the older members of the parish or those most at risk will prefer this. There will also be an opportunity to drop off a contribution and receive bulletins and other news, and we continue to rely on and ask for your financial support to function well as church communities!

Fr. Frank and I continue to offer COVID-mindful confessions in an open space in St. Bernard church every Saturday from 3-4 PM inside the church up on the left by the Blessed Mother statue. We also meet parishioners

in a safe way for the Sacrament of Reconciliation when they call and make an appointment for it. St. Bernard church is open every day for personal prayer from 9 AM-4 PM. The Eucharistic chapel in the lower lot is always accessible if you call the office to get the code. It can perhaps be arranged to pray in St. Mary if you are looking to do that, too.

If you know someone who is in dire need, anyone who has an emergency need for the Sacrament of the Sick, Confession, or Holy Communion, contact the office and ask for me or Fr. Frank. You can always visit www.stbernardstmary.org to get the most up-to-date information and to watch weekend Masses streamed live online.

In a special way I want to thank Jake Herron, Matt Fafrak, Ana Maria Baker, Marcus Lombardi, Michele Schmidt, Britt Varsho, Natalie Armstrong, Andy Udovich, Micaela Dyson, Terry Fercana, Jane Killian, Kathleen Considine, Fred Kramer, Bob Bozsik, Ed Klein, Ruth Klein, Nat Clark, Claudia Cabrera, Lucy Antalek, Chris Alexander, Betty McCormick, Joanne Krebs, Blaine Muhlbauer and all decorators, sacristans, musicians, music directors, the staff and choirs of both parishes and Father Frank and Deacon Ray for having made countless adjustments, sacrifices and special efforts to have beautiful Masses and other moments of prayer available online from both parishes all throughout the past two months. The Holy Spirit very much strengthened and coordinated us all to get through these moments and coordinated some wonderful moments of prayer all along the way! Many of these are archived on www.stbernardstmary.org.

I am excited to see where the Holy Spirit of Pentecost will lead us next! I look forward to finding out and accomplishing it together! **WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH, CHURCH!!!** ☺ - Father Chris

A Guide for Attending Mass Responsibly During the COVID Times

Regulations governing what to do at Mass for every church in the diocese of Cleveland have been promulgated and published by the diocese of Cleveland's administration under the leadership and by the authority of Fr. Don Oleksiak, Diocesan Administrator. They are available in their entirety online at <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/forward-with-christ/worship-guidelines>. Per these guidelines, practically speaking, here is how we will pray the Mass responsibly together in the near future.

BEFORE MASS:

- 1) Please plan on needing a little extra time to get in and be seated. You may only enter and exit through the side doors at St. Bernard and the courtyard door at St. Mary.
- 2) Everyone must wear a mask in church. Please bring your own mask and make sure it covers both your nose and mouth, and keep it on until you are out of the church. We will have some disposable masks if you forget, and we know of some parishioners with extra cloth masks if you need one.
- 3) Ushers will assist you in finding seating to ensure that we are getting the maximum use of our capacity.
- 4) If you have your own Missal, songbook, or *Magnificat*, feel free to bring it to Mass. However, there will not be missalettes or songbooks available until the Diocese says we may resume using them.
- 5) There will be Welcoming Stations at the entrances of the church where hand sanitizer, directions for attending Mass at this time and disposable masks will be available.
- 6) Bulletins will only be available as you exit from ushers who will wear gloves and masks.
- 7) There will be no holy water in fonts for the time being, but Fr. Frank, Fr. Chris and Deacon Ray will bless individual vessels of water that you bring if you would like.
- 8) You are asked to sit 6 feet away in every direction from every other party, but may sit close together as a family as you normally would. Those with physical handicaps should still be seated in front.

DURING MASS:

- 1) Please maintain a 6' radius of space between your party and all other parties.
- 2) At St. Bernard, the first balcony will be closed for the time being.
- 3) The Diocese cites scientific studies suggesting that singing greatly increases the risk of spreading contagion, so the idea is that we should not be singing around each other. Therefore, unfortunately, music will be at a minimum for now and most parts of the Mass will be recited.

- 4) At the Sign of Peace, rather than what you would normally do, perhaps smile and make a small bow or some other gesture of peace to those around you. Do not shake hands.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION:

- 1) See the chart below. At both churches we will often have A and C go first and B and D after. At St. Bernard's in a situation of less attendance, we will have A and B go as one group and then C and D.
- 2) We have to process forward in single file with six feet of space between each individual. The blue squares on the floor are six feet apart, so follow them. Ushers may pace the procession if necessary.
- 3) Recommendation: "*Remove, Receive, Replace.*" When it is your turn to receive Holy Communion, please remove your mask, head bow and say Amen as you normally would, receive the host, and, after consuming the host, replace your mask and proceed to return to your pew. You are asked to not receive on the tongue. If you must receive on the tongue, please come last in line and sit accordingly.

AFTER MASS:

- 1) Ushers will pace the dismissal and will assist the congregation to exit. You don't have to leave at that time, but if you don't, you must wait until the whole dismissal happens before you leave. You are asked not to socialize in groups in the building after Mass.
- 2) There will be no Offertory or Collection during Mass, but the Collection will actually be the last thing you do before you leave the building, using bins or baskets on or near the Welcome Stations.
- 3) The ushers, masked and gloved, will offer a bulletin to each family or individual as per usual.
- 4) Unfortunately, the Diocese has said that doughnuts and coffee and any other typical after-Mass social on church property is prohibited for the time being. However, when the Diocese gives us the green light, we will again resume these activities at both parishes. You are encouraged to arrange a safe outing with your church companions and meet together wherever else you want after Mass is over!

BETWEEN MASSES

- 1) Sanitation (cleaning of pews, kneelers and every surface that has been in contact with Mass-goers) must happen between every Mass. We will probably need some extra help ushering too. We need extra people to assist us! Please contact Fr. Chris, Fr. Frank, Dc. Ray, or an usher if you are able to help.

There you have it! Allow time to arrive earlier and expect to leave slower. May the Spirit of the Lord keep us in His peace, bearing with one another, sharing each other's burdens, and keep our main focus on the main thing - getting our lives caught up in the everlasting love of God through the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy. **Come Holy Spirit!**

Quarantine Prayer by Sue Kramer, St. Bernard Parish

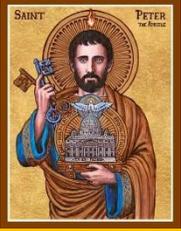
On a chilly and overcast Easter morning, while Mass was broadcast inside St. Mary's, a small group of parishioners from St. Mary and St. Bernard gathered before the statue of Our Lady in the St. Mary courtyard to pray for the victims of COVID-19, their caregivers, a swift end to the suffering caused by the virus, and the spiritual and physical health and safety of Fr. Chris and Fr. Frank. The participants observed quarantine guidelines by wearing masks (most took them off for the photo) and maintaining at least 6 feet of distance between themselves. The group included Linda and Tony Crookston, Mike and Karen Jewell, Judy Mosser, John Ohlin, Vince Politano and Carly Smith, Stephanie Schreiber, Jack and Cheryl Stapleton, and Fred and Sue Kramer, among others not in the photo. *(Photo courtesy of John Ohlin, St. Mary)*



Parishioners from both St. Mary and St. Bernard are most welcome to join in the weekly recitation of the Rosary and Adoration at 8:30 AM, immediately before the Sunday 9:00 AM Mass at St. Mary. The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet are also prayed after daily 12:10 PM Mass at St. Bernard. St. Pio of Pietrelcina famously referred to the Rosary as his "weapon". The Blessed Virgin Mary is patroness of both St. Mary and St. Bernard, and our most powerful intercessor. As the Memorare points out, she will never abandon us when we ask for her help. **Holy Mother of God, whom Jesus gave to us as our mother, pray for us!**

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Catholic Quote of the Month



***What matters is not your outward appearance, but your inner disposition.
Cultivate inner beauty, the gentle gracious kind that God delights in.***

**St. Peter – (1 AD to approximately 64-68 AD)
Apostle, Priest, Bishop, First Pope, and Martyr – Feast Day, June 29**

Christ Allies, Responds, and Encourages (CARE) Initiative

This past month of May, over 40 parishioners from St. Bernard and St. Mary Parishes called the over 500 households who are believed to be the officially registered members of the parishes.

If you did not receive one of these calls, please fill out a small paper marked “CARE Initiative” and return it to the collection basket at the Welcome Station near the church entrances, or mail it to 44 University Ave., Akron, OH 44308. You may also insert it in the mail slot at the office building of the parishes located off the St. Bernard parking lot, below the Newman Center sign; or notify Dee McCall by phone (330-253-5161) or e-mail (deemccall@stbernardstmary.org) and give her your parish, name, address, e-mail address and phone number.

It is SO important to have current contact information to communicate with you regarding any changes or upcoming initiatives, especially as we continue to respond to COVID-19. Thank you!

Graduation Blessings by Fr. Chris Zerucha

Let us pray for all our students of St. Mary and St. Bernard, who will not experience the graduation for which they hoped. This includes the 8th Grade of St. Mary School, the senior class Roo Catholic students of the University of Akron, and all our children and young adults who attend public schools and other universities – as well as the seminarians and permanent diaconate candidates of our Diocese who will receive Holy Orders and be ordained in August instead of May. Below are this year’s St. Mary School 8th Grade graduates and the schools they will attend.

**Devin Bell
Madison Mathews-Inglesi**

**De'vonta Allen
Christian Campbell
John Chance
Wylie Cheairs**

Jesse James

ARCHBISHOP HOBAN HIGH SCHOOL

**Anilika Nnabuife
DaNajia Prince**

**Aniyah Smith
Jaicee Wallace**

ST. VINCENT-ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL

**Princess Clark
Lauren Hogan
Antwon Hopson**

**Nye'Reonna Kimble
Edwin Gordillo-Morales
Branson Pinones
Nathan Taylor**

WALSH JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

Destinee Maringa

BUCHTEL COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

Da'Vionna Singleton

FIRESTONE COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

Kalese Vinson

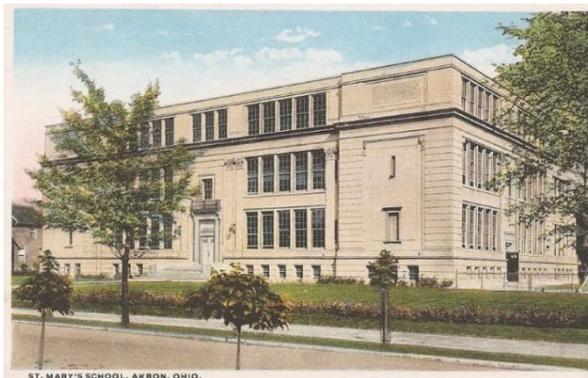
The Crusaders' Corner

An Interview of Dr. Pat Nugent, Principal, by Sue Kramer, St. Bernard

Dr. Patricia Nugent, principal of St. Mary School for the last four years, has overseen improvements to the school with the help of her staff for the sake of its current and future students. Here, in my interview with her, she offers an update to parishioners on the state of the school with a look at what is being accomplished and the hopes of what is to come.

St. Mary graduates are fully prepared to enter any high school, including private schools. A better education equals a better future. The 2020 graduating class has 21 students, and 19 of those graduates will enter Catholic high schools. Dr. Nugent and the staff are very proud of them and the students who will enter Buchtel and Firestone High Schools as well. The grades and testing scores improve every year, and this continues to be a priority.

Particularly gratifying is that four students at St. Mary School converted to Catholicism last Spring, with the approval and support of their parents and families, and participating in the "Jesus Club" during lunch. Most adults would call it "RCIA for Kids." With few exceptions, the students at St. Mary are not Catholic. They participate in Religion classes in which Catholic doctrine is taught, and also participate in school Mass almost every week. Children of alternating Grades assist as readers, altar servers, and select music. This is considered a great privilege by the students, and they are well prepared to participate in Mass, even though most cannot receive the Blessed Sacrament. Children also form a choir to lead in singing the hymns. The students take this very seriously, thanks to the teachers who are instilling great respect for the Mass and our Faith. Even for those who will never become Catholic, the Catholic roots they receive at St. Mary are something they will carry with them all their lives, as all of us who had the blessing of attending Catholic grade school very well know.



As for caring for the 109-year-old school building, over the last four years, each room has been painted, lockers have been installed, and stair treads have been mounted on the three stories of interior steps at each end of the school and mid-building! When anyone enters the school, it is clean, updated, and professional, with heartfelt thanks to Tom Hollingsworth, the school custodian.

Every morning the students watch a video broadcast of the morning announcements led by 8th Grade students. Fr. Chris jumps in usually on Tuesdays. If a class goes on a field trip, or if a student is honored in some way, they get interviewed. This promotes public speaking skills, care in appearance, and poise.

Student Council is a development which instills leadership skills, responsibility, and care for others. It prepares the students for high school and beyond. Council includes members from the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Grades. Monthly, Council plans a service project and a fun activity for the students. They have visited nursing homes, picked up trash, held an Easter egg hunt for the younger children, planned dress down days, and more.

The mentoring program pairs older students with younger students to become buddies. They read, play games, work on craft projects, and help with homework. Physical education and music teachers have been added to the teaching staff. Clubs – cooking, chess, crochet, board games, and more – are available to students. Tutoring, with the help of students from Hoban and St. Vincent, and adults from St. Mary, St. Bernard and 20 other parishes is offered every Thursday. In all, St. Mary School is a very busy place!

St. Mary School will reopen in the Fall, observing State-mandated sanitary and distancing procedures and utilizing technology more than ever before. At this point, the projected enrollment is 213 and will include a second Kindergarten class. The school administration will roll with the changes and guidelines from Governor DeWine and the Ohio bishops as to what is expected, all while providing a Catholic and welcoming educational atmosphere for the children of the school. Pray for the St. Mary Crusaders!

Parishioner Reflection by Donna Sims, St. Mary Parish

I've belonged to St. Mary's since I was two years old. My view of the church was from experience and stories I heard from the old timers – and now I guess I'm an old timer!

First of all, St. Mary was the second Irish parish in Akron. St. Vincent was founded back in 1837 by Irish immigrants. The Irish came to Akron to dig the canals. Fr. Mahar established a mission church on South Main Street. In 1896 it reached the status of a parish.

St. Mary continued to grow under Monsignor Joseph O'Keefe. A new church was built on the corner of Thornton and Coburn Streets. It was dedicated on October 1, 1916. The school followed, and was dedicated on April 11, 1917. The church survived three fires, urban renewal, and the construction of the expressway.

We were always such a robust parish and school. The school won the first State championships in football and basketball. The school, at one time, had bowling alleys in the lower level. I have heard so many stories about the old days at St. Mary, that I cannot write them all!



Monsignor O'Keefe was such a strong spiritual and civic leader. He established the first Veteran Post in the State of Ohio. The Unions called upon him to help settle strikes. He was a progressive yet solid thinker, active in all phases of social advancement.

Monsignor's pride was the school, and no wonder – his school produced so many leaders and devout Catholics! Before our church closure in 2010, our church and school were solvent and not in the red. We had people from every Zip Code in Summit County. I love my parish and school. I hope we can continue to worship at our beautiful St. Mary's for many years to come!

Staff Reflection by Deacon Ray DiMascio

Fr. Chris reached out to me to offer a brief reflection on the current COVID-19 pandemic from my perspective as your deacon. I'm not sure if I can do "brief" but I will do my best :).

First, I hope you all are well and know that you remain in my prayers. I am reminded of how much our community means to me when I look out an empty Church during Mass these last weeks or the fact that the Church was empty during Holy Week and Easter. "Virtual" community is simply not the same as the community God created us to be. Created in the Divine Image means that we are meant to be in relationship with one and other. I couldn't imagine the Trinity wearing masks, or that God would breathe life into Adam and Eve with His face covered. Jesus was certainly all about openness and "unmasking" people. Think of Lazarus, as Jesus called him from out of his tomb (how many of us feel like we are entombed currently?), and asked his community to unbind him from his burial bands, which certainly would have included a face cover or mask of sorts. This is what makes COVID-19 so unprecedented, because we cannot be who we are meant to be, a people in relationships. We must also take care because almost every generation has seen something similar. We are not the first and we will not be the last.

As we approach the Feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost, I cannot help but make some additional comparisons. In Acts of the Apostles we see the first followers of Jesus huddled in the upper room behind locked doors, afraid and uncertain. No "Zoom" meetings, no Facebook, nor text messaging for them. They were afraid for their lives, and worried what would happen to them if they ventured out from the confines of that room and their small faith family. By the way, I know many people who feel the same way today. Those who know me well know that I like to quote the famous adage, "the more things change the more they stay the same." The Christian life in a sense is very repetitive with each generation having to learn anew the Gospel

message - "Be not afraid," "Peace be with you," and "I am with you to the end of the age." We huddle in our rooms afraid, time and time again.

But the Risen Jesus comes into their midst, breathes on them, and proclaims, "Peace be with you!" In the activity of both the Ascension and Pentecost, the disciples are called and challenged to begin to move again, to restart what Jesus had begun while in their midst, to trust that the Risen One was with them, empowering them and guiding them. So I encourage all of you to continue to hope and trust in a good and loving God who is with us all ways, through thick and thin, COVID-19 or the flu, or cancer, getting old, getting through school or work, marriage, or life in general, day in and day out. Yes, be safe, be smart, be patient. It will all be okay. But most of all, be at peace. God will provide now and always. I cannot wait to see you at "Church!" Peace in Christ!

