

August/September
2020

Volume 1, Issue 3

(Ordinary Time)

The Memorare

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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

I'll always refer to it as "The St. Patrick Day Miracle," and it occurred at the beginning of the COVID-19 shutdowns. As he should have, Father Frank joked around a lot with me about how the "pastor who is Ukrainian and Polish is closing the offices for St. Patrick's Day to celebrate his Irish heritage." This was very funny because I am not the least bit Irish; I just really like having fun with people on St. Patrick's Day and I truly admire St. Patrick. So, I decided to close the office on March 17 for everything "except emergencies."



Well, wouldn't you know! I woke up on March 17th to an emergency call to go to Akron Children's Hospital. I went, and discovered a family in great distress and the almost certain prospect that their eight-year-old boy was going to die. His pastor requested that I give him his First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Anointing of The Sick, and Last Rites. I had to gear up with all kind of protective equipment to do so, because they were not sure if he had COVID or not. I went in and did what I was supposed to do and prayed extra hard for the healing of Jesus, the helping of the family by the Holy Spirit, and the intercession of St. Patrick and St. Therese of Lisieux. I prayed the hardest I could have for the family as it was obviously a devastating situation. Then, I left. I understood that I had brought Jesus into a sad and trying moment and thought that was all there would be for that situation.

Two months later, I got a call from the boy's mom; he had lived, and his x-rays showed a completely clear, healed and different picture than they had shown the day before. So much so that they did a second set of x-rays to make sure it was the same person and it was!

I have told this story many times already during homilies and other occasions because it is a clear story of God's providence during this most trying year of 2020. There are many more stories where that came from! And they are not just from 2020. In this issue, we recall the trying circumstances of racism, genocide, disadvantage and God's providence throughout it all.

As we begin the month of August 2020, both parishes face the need to commence support campaigns; the University of Akron and St. Mary School need to remain flexible and possibly adapt instruction methods to a partial of totally virtual format; and we are still called as a parish communities to provide faith formation and sacraments for as many as come forward, even if it is in a distance-learning fashion. Both St. Mary and St. Bernard have already had people come forward in the last few months seeking to become Catholic. Trying challenges to meet in these times! What are we to do?

The people of Faith are never the ones to back down from challenges, and the God of our Faith is never one to withhold the providence we need to meet them and be victorious over them! And so, we move "Forward in Faith" through this most unusual year with expectations to be challenged, beat COVID-19 and be richly provided for. We plan on this because, "nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:28-39).

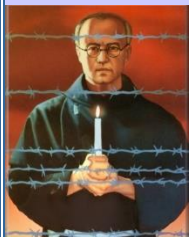
In this issue, we recall the trying circumstances of racism, overcoming a pandemic, being challenged, and God's providence throughout it all by moving us as we encounter and grow in our relationship with Him through our Faith.

Please see the list of upcoming dates at the end of this newsletter for details on what we know we will schedule and have available. More things may yet be scheduled besides the most important activity, which is Mass.

Thank you for all the ways in which you dedicate yourself to our journey together as the Body of Christ! Sincerely,
In Christ, Father Chris

(Note from the Co-Editor: On behalf of the Irish of both St. Bernard and St. Mary, we officially claim Father Chris and Father Frank as Irish. – Sue Kramer, Irish/Italian American)

Catholic Quote



"Hatred divides, separates, and destroys, whereas, on the contrary, love unites, gives peace, and builds."

***St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM – (1894-1941) – Feast Day, August 14
Priest, Teacher, Newspaper Publisher, Missionary,
Radio Broadcaster, Prisoner, and Martyr***

Faith Moves Us Forward: The Obligation to Attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days – by Fr. Chris Zerucha

The Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady is August 15, and is normally a Holy Day of Obligation. This year, since it fell on Saturday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. It was still a special day of thought and prayer to Our Lady, since we celebrated Mass at St. Bernard at 9:30 (the Mass was supposed to be at St. Mary, and will be next year for sure.) It is one of the most beautiful feast days of the Church, in which we remember the day Mary was raised to Heaven, body and soul.



Mary is no doubt happy to see us at church, but what makes August 15 and the other five Holy Days of Obligation (January 1 – the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God; 40 days after Easter Sunday - Ascension; November 1 – All Saints Day; December 8 – the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception; and December 25 – Christmas; – along with each Sunday) days when the Church says we MUST go to Mass?

The six Holy Days of Obligation mark the most critical moments in our faith history when God did something essential to move us forward in faith as a Human Race. The obligatory Saturday/Sunday celebrations are known as "little Easters", when we follow the pattern of Jesus Christ, who Himself kept holy the Sabbath day by participating in communal prayer in a temple and who calls us to do likewise by attending Mass.

It boils down to God wanting to make us holy, and the irreplaceable roles that presence, participation, and reception of Holy Communion at Mass play in God making us holy as He is holy. When we or others are searching for God and God's will and the way to move forward in life, we must begin with attending Mass to have our Faith nourished in the most time-tested ways.

There is no obligation to attend Mass during the pandemic, but it has been great to see more and more return to Mass. Please see our COVID-19 safety standards in this and in the last newsletter, which is available at

www.st.bernardstmary.org . Mass is streamed live and archived each Sunday at 10 AM and 12 Noon. Holy Communion is available via drive-in at St. Bernard's parking lot from 11:10 to 11:40 AM each Sunday until the pandemic subsides.

Want to know how to move forward in Faith? ASSUME you will find the way by participating in Mass and Holy Communion! Jesus won't let you down!

St. Bernard East State Street Door & Sidewalk May be Closed Until January 1!

At some point in August or September, HMH Construction may need to completely shut down access of the East State Street sidewalk and door except for emergencies. This is so that they can continue to restore and improve our building. It will re-open at the conclusion of their work beginning January 1.

COVID-19 Protocol Updates

Activities:

- Doughnut Socials after Sunday morning Mass are still suspended, but all other parish groups may again begin meeting as long as certain standards are met during and after the meeting. Please contact the parish office (330-253-5161) if your group would like to begin meeting again.

Hunger Programs:

- All Hunger Program distributions will continue in the safe ways they have been providing food "to go" so far during COVID-19. No plans to reopen the Bologna House or Social Hall for our guests until further notice.

When Do I Have to Wear a Mask at Church?

- Per diocesan standards and the now-proven value, you must wear a mask when you are attending Mass or participating in any other church activity. The only exceptions are those ministering at Mass, those getting married and those with certain conditions that do not permit a mask. At St. Bernard, the back row of seating on Our Lady's side with two rows between seats, and certain seating at St. Mary, is available for those who need to not wear a mask.

Receiving Holy Communion on the Tongue:

- Please wait to go last until all others have received on the hand.

Ushers:

- Bulletins may again be left on the Welcome Stations and in the bulletin holders.
- Please remind and provide masks to those who do not wear them during Mass.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

- When assisting at Communion, please come up as you have been – receive Communion first, then replace your mask, then sanitize your hands in preparation to distribute Holy Communion. Please sanitize your hands after Holy Communion as well.

Altar Servers:

- If you wish to serve at Mass, you may. There is less to do, but we still appreciate your help. You will have to bring a trash bag to claim your own set of vestments if you want to vest, but vestments are not required. You will need to place the bag over and through the hanger with your vestments and mark your name on it before hanging them back up. If there is no server and the bells are by the altar, please feel free to get the bells at the Offertory/Preparation of the Altar and ring them from your seat at the Consecration. Use sanitizer on your hands and on the handle first.

Readers:

- No update.

Music Ministries:

- There may be a new study published that will allow for more singing during Mass, but no choral singing until further notice.

Decorators, Cleaners, and Sacristans:

- Please continue to be careful in observing your own sanitation before, during, and after your activities, especially if you are handling vessels after Mass.

Visiting the Parish Office:

- The full staff has been back to work for some time now. Please wear a mask if you intend to enter the parish office beyond the front window.

THANK YOU ALL FOR DOING YOUR PART TO MAKE CHURCH SAFE, SANITARY, AND WELCOMING! GOD KNOWS US BEYOND ALL OUR MASKS, AND OBSERVING THESE DETAILS HELPS EVERYONE TO BE CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN ENCOUNTER HIM AT CHURCH WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING OUR HEALTH!

Staff Reflection – by Dee McCall, St. Bernard Administrative Assistant



I was asked how I'm surviving the pandemic. I would like to give thanks to God for prayer, binge-worthy tv shows, food, kayaking/tubing and nature. I started going outside and spending time in nature, and my most favorite place has been on the water. I was told that water is a sign of tranquility. I find it to be very calming being in the water. It helps me understand how little I am compared to the water and how life and its problems are so small when you are on the water. So, when I feel as though I am getting to the point of being overwhelmed, I close my eyes and take a couple of deep inhales and exhales. In my mind, my breathing sounds like waves in the water.

One of my favorite people in history was Bruce Lee because he once said, "Be Like Water." To me that saying is truly prolific; water is able to adjust to all types of elements and is still able to remain the same. That is the true goal for me in these trying times; to remember who I am and adjust accordingly to the situation.

Nothing is forever, so I'm enjoying the smiles and laughter while I have them. Even after a storm the sun finds its way to show. So, I just wait for my next sunshine and count my blessings along the way. Be Blessed Family!

Pope Francis Has Sent Us a Bishop! (from the Cleveland Diocese Website)

Pope Francis has appointed the Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. Bishop-designate Malesic takes over the governance of the Diocese of Cleveland from Bishop Nelson Perez, who was named the Archbishop of Philadelphia in February, 2020. Father Don Oleksiak will continue as administrator of the diocese until Bishop designate Malesic is installed as the 12th bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland on Monday, September 14 during Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in downtown Cleveland.



Pope Francis previously appointed Bishop Edward C. Malesic to be the fifth bishop of Greensburg on April 24, 2015. Bishop Malesic was ordained and installed as bishop of Greensburg on July 13, 2015 at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

Bishop Malesic was born Aug. 14, 1960, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to Joseph and the late Elizabeth Schatt Malesic. He was reared in Enhaut, which adjoins the factory town of Steelton, near Harrisburg. He is one of four siblings. Two are deceased: Joseph, Jr. and Margaret R. Malesic. His one surviving brother, Robert, lives in Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, with his wife Constance. His father, 102 years old, is still quite active and resides near Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Bishop Malesic received the sacraments of initiation at his hometown parish in Enhaut, Pennsylvania, the former St. John the Evangelist Parish, which was a German national parish. His mother was of German descent and his father is of Slovenian descent.

Bishop Malesic is a 1978 graduate of Central Dauphin East High School, Harrisburg, and attended Lebanon Valley College in Annville as a biology major for three years prior to entering the seminary. In 1981 he was accepted into the seminary program at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, where he received a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy in 1983. He continued his theological studies at the Josephinum and was awarded a master of divinity degree in 1987. Bishop William H. Keeler, then the bishop of Harrisburg, ordained him to the diaconate on May 24, 1986, and to the priesthood on May 30, 1987, at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg.

Bishop Malesic served in various pastoral assignments in the Diocese of Harrisburg. He was the assistant pastor at two parishes, and then served in campus ministry at York College, Millersville University, and Franklin & Marshall College.

In 1996, Bishop Nicholas C. Dattilo sent him to study canon law at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Bishop Malesic received his licentiate in canon law in 1998 and served the Diocese of Harrisburg's Tribunal in various capacities, including auditor, adjutant judicial vicar and secretary for canonical services. He was appointed judicial vicar in 2006, a position he held when he was named bishop of Greensburg. He is a member of the Canon Law Society of America. He then spent time in parish ministry for several years throughout the Diocese, before being called to serve as Bishop of Greensburg.

He is a member of two USCCB committees: The Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance and the Subcommittee for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

Bishop Malesic asks that we pray for him as he transitions from the Diocese of Greensburg to the next step of his ministry here in the Cleveland Diocese. God bless and protect Bishop Malesic and all of us here in the Diocese, and may we bring greater glory to God under his direction.

The Crusaders Corner – Meet Mrs. Kristan Heller, Technology Teacher

The St. Mary School community is pleased to welcome Mrs. Kristan Heller, who is the Director of Technology and Distance Learning, as well as Computer Teacher.

Mrs. Heller comes to St. Mary's with a well-cultivated passion for Catholic education and a unique background of technology. She is the daughter of parents who, combined, served more than 60 years in education in the Diocese of Youngstown. Mrs. Heller feels called in her vocation of teaching, first and foremost, to help get her students to Heaven. She feels honored to share her Faith with the children of St. Mary's. Catholic education is such a personal priority to Mrs. Heller and her husband, Steve, that they sacrificed to educate all three of their children in Catholic grade schools, high schools, and universities.



Mrs. Heller has a thorough and comprehensive background to prepare her for her duties at St. Mary. After graduating from John Carroll University in 1991, she started her career at St. Hilary School as the 5th Grade teacher. Here, she began to develop her love for technology in the classroom. In the early 1990s, she was the first teacher in her school to incorporate spreadsheets to record and calculate grades.

She continued her education career at Seton Catholic School in Hudson as Director of Administrative Technology and the STREAM Program and Director of Religious Activities. She developed the STREAM curriculum for Grades K-5 in addition to being the instructor for the STREAM classes and lab.

She has been married to Steve (also a JCU alumnus, 1991), and they are the parents of Alyssa, who is a Xavier University grad student in Occupational Therapy; Lauren, who is a University of Notre Dame grad student in the School of Psychology; and Michael, who is an undergrad at John Carroll University.

Our world was thrust into distance learning without being prepared, starting with the COVID-19 quarantine in March of this past Spring. Mrs. Heller watched as her three college-aged children navigated uncharted waters of remote learning. Having three children who were educated in traditional Catholic schools from Kindergarten to grad school, it was a difficult transition not to have the in-person instruction they had been raised with. Seeing not only the students struggle, but the educators' struggle was very concerning. With the technology skills and experience she had gained over the years she knew she wanted to be a part of training teachers and students to better communicate in order to keep the learning process moving forward no matter what crisis our world might face. "It was unbelievable to see not only the students adjust to remote learning but the teachers and parents seemed to have the most to learn. Once it was clear this pandemic would drag on into another school year, it was amazing to see the teachers rally to learn everything they could in order to educate their students no matter where they are."

St. Mary's school will provide Chrome Books for grades 6, 7 and 8. Grade 5 will work with HP laptop computers and Grades K-4 will use iPads to make St. Mary's a one-to-one school, meaning each child will have a device to continue their learning during any given situation our world finds itself.

Mrs. Heller looks forward to the challenge of assisting the students, teachers, and parents to keep the lines of communication and education open this year and in the future. And, of course, to do all she can to get her students to Heaven!

Moving Forward: Our Shared History Provides Our Opportunity – By Donald L. Walker, St. Bernard Parish

I was born and raised in Washington D.C. I attended the March on Washington in 1963 and witnessed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. give the “I Have a Dream” speech. In 1973, I moved to Akron and earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of Akron School of Law. I am a member of the Ohio State Bar Association, Akron Bar Association, Akron-Canton Barristers Association, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Throughout my career, I have remained active in creating social change. I attended the Million Man March in 1995, and I am a life member of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). I was a member of St. Mary’s parish until we merged with St. Bernard in 2010. Since then, I have been a member of St. Bernard, and serve as an usher at the 4:30 Saturday vigil Mass. Below is my reflection of the current social climate.

Let’s face it – life in America is difficult right now. We are living through a pandemic. Unemployment is rising. Income is decreasing. Many are anxious about the future, our loved ones, and, honestly, most things. We are longing to live our “normal” lives. In addition to all of this, America is waking to the injustices that have plagued Black Americans throughout history. The death of George Floyd, a Black man who was killed by police in Minneapolis, MN, sparked widespread civil unrest in the U.S. and abroad. This has happened for far too long. In recent years, we’ve heard stories of Tamir Rice, Kendrick Johnson, Amhaud Arbery, Breona Taylor, Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, and countless others. But what makes this different? Maybe it’s because, in this moment, we are paying more attention to the world around us. Maybe we’ve reached a breaking point. Or, perhaps, it had something to do with George Floyd’s final words.

“Just get up.”

“My neck hurts.”

“I can’t breathe, officer.”

“Momma!”

Momma. A simple word uttered by a dying man. Momma. A word that connects to every heart.

In the weeks after George Floyd’s death, we saw protests calling for change and greater acknowledgement that Black Lives Matter. While there are those who quickly quip, “all lives matter,” we must remember that Black people in this country have not ever been seen as fully human. From the 3/5 Clause in the U.S. Constitution to Jim Crow to disproportionate incarceration rates, Black people have consistently faced barriers to true equality.

This is our shared history. But we have the ability to create a brighter, more just, society for future generations. We can start by taking one very small step. Talking. Just as we have honest conversations within our families when something isn’t working, we have the ability to create change by starting conversations with others despite their views on whether change is necessary. By talking and listening to each other, we can begin to break down the barriers that divide us. We can identify the problems and beliefs that brought us to this point. Most importantly, we can begin to craft our own solutions and share our ideas with those in positions of authority.

My challenge to you is to simply start the conversation. It may be difficult, but here are a few tips to help you along:

- Take the conversation off social media. Social media sites are great places to share information and resources, but they do not provide the most conducive platform for real discussions, because the reader is left to insert his own tone while reading a post.
- Talk face to face. During this time when we are starved for human interaction, find time to really connect with others around issues of equality. Maybe you can take a walk or join a video call. At the very least, make a phone call. These conversations work best when the other person can hear you and understand your intentions.

- Listen for understanding. If you're anything like me, you've found yourself in the middle of a conversation formulating your response while the other person is speaking. By doing this, we miss parts of what the other person has said because we are focused on our own words. Instead, try this: listen, breathe, and respond.
- Know the facts. The internet is full of information. Make sure you find reputable sources from which to gather information. The Kirwin Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University provides a variety of diversity studies and resources. You can find them at <http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu>
- Understand your own implicit bias. Harvard University has developed a series of implicit bias quizzes to help people understand bias in several areas. You can take the quizzes for free at <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>.

Forward in Faith – Important Dates to Save

ALL MEETINGS WILL OBSERVE PROPER SAFETY PROTOCOLS!

Beginning August	2 nd & 4 th Tues. – 7 PM-8 PM	Adult Bible Study (Español & English) – St. Bernard History Room
	2 nd & 4 th Weds. – 7:30 PM-8:30 PM	Confessions (Español & English) – St. Bernard Church
	2 nd & 4 th Weds. – 9 PM	Mass (Español & English) – St. Bernard Church
	2 nd & 4 th Thurs. – 7 PM	Adult Faith Formation – St. Bernard Social Hall
	August 20	St. Mary School Faculty & Staff Retreat (Pray for Us!)
	August 26 & 27	First Days of School at St. Mary School
	August 29 & 30	St. Bernard Parish Council Nominations Begin at All Masses (<i>Due by 9/13</i>)
September	TBD	First Meeting for RCIA (English)
	TBD	First Meeting for RCIA (Español)
	TBD	St. Bernard Parish Picnic – (Outdoors)
	TBD	St. Mary Parish Festival – St. Mary Church (Outdoors)
	TBD	Information Meeting for First Holy Communion – St. Bernard Social Hall
	TBD	Information Meeting for Confirmation – St. Bernard Social Hall
	September 13	St. Mary Council Meeting – St. Mary Church after 9 AM Mass
	September 14	Installation of Bishop Malesic as 12 th Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland
	September 14 – 7 PM	St. Bernard Parish Council Meeting to Pray & Process Parish Council Nominations – St. Bernard History Room
	September 18 – 1 PM	Downtown/Greater Akron Bells Ring in Appreciation of Teachers, Medical Workers, & All Other Essential Workers
September 30	St. Mary Campaign Meeting – St. Mary Church after 9 AM Mass	
October	TBD	RooCatholic Retreat – Newman Center, St. Bernard Parish Hall & via GoogleMeet
	October 5	Beginning of Public Phase of St. Bernard “ Forward in Faith ” campaign to raise money for our restoration and building
	October 10/11	First In-Pew & Online Appeal for Forward in Faith – St. Bernard Church
	October 16 – 7 PM	First of Forward in Faith Music Recitals in person and online – St. Bernard Church
	October 18	St. Mary Council & Campaign Meeting - St. Mary Church after 9 AM Mass
	October 24 & 25	Welcome October: Open Invitations to Each Parish’s Groups & Committees