

December/January
2020/2021

(Advent/Christmas/
Epiphany/Ordinary Time)



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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

“We Await THE BLESSED HOPE...”

The previous translation of the Roman Missal into English was perfect for Advent! In it we prayed during the Our Father that we “wait IN JOYFUL HOPE for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.” As I have and always will remind you every Advent, the Church calls this a season of “joyful and expectant delight.” Even though we utilize the color of violet, the penitential color, we are doing something exciting here! We are excited, ready even anxious to meet the Lord who comes into our life and in whose life we enter at the end of our life on earth and whose life we live in for all time! We reflect during Advent what these entrances mean so our hearts can be most open to them. We celebrate their sure arrival at Christmas. What is the difference between joyful and blessed hope then? Aren’t they the same?



The difference in translation signifies precisely that there are false hopes and then there are BLESSED hopes! For example, we have been waiting at the office for a new computer to arrive, hoping for the day when we can turn it on, download our old files into it and start training someone to operate it. We have gotten messages that said the computer would arrive in two weeks. And then maybe two more weeks and then now for sure they can say it will arrive sometime in mid-January. What a hope un-blessed! We got tired of hoping in change and changed our hope to a different, more reliable company

and model of computer so that we can get to work on this very critical transition at a very critical time for it.

The difference between any hope and BLESSED hope is that not just any hope will work out how we hope; not just any target of hope is healthy or realistic in the first place. THE BLESSED HOPE, however, is one that is always good and that always delivers at least as promised, if not better. The blessed hope is the hope that is in God, in God’s promises and in the coming of Christ in some way. Blessed hope prays.

In this edition of *The Memorare*, we see signs of THE BLESSED HOPE fulfilled! We see ways that God is providing and we see the next chances we have to nurture blessed hope. Like the Holy Family, may the

we never give up looking to God for what to hope in next. Like the Holy Family, in any and every circumstance, may we therefore be blessed!

With Prayers for a Blessed Advent and Christmas, *Father Chris*

Catholic Quote

**“Do not be troubled or weighed down with grief.
Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain.**

Am I not here, who am your Mother?

Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life?

Are you not in the folds of my mantle? In the crossing of my arms?

Is there anything else you need?”



**Our Lady of Guadalupe, Queen of the Americas, to St. Juan Diego
Tepeyac Hill, Mexico City - December, 1531**

Mass Intentions

St. Bernard			St. Mary		
Sun, 12/6	10:00 AM	+Richard Frank	Sun, 12/6	9:00 AM	Intentions of the Frank Ohlin Family
	12:00 PM	For the People of St. Mary and St. Mary Parishes			
	8:00 PM	Intention of Louis Lore, Jr.			
Mon, 12/7	12:10 PM	Happy Birthday Dakota Perkins	<p align="center">Wedding Banns III – Carly Smith & Vince Politano</p>		
	5:00 AM	+Patricia Ann Lundstrom			
Tue, 12/8	12:10 PM	Intentions of Jorge & Maria Gomes			
Wed, 12/9	12:10 PM	Intention of Momo Gill			
	8:30 PM	+Drue Corbett			
Thu, 12/10	12:10 PM	+Victor Haydu			
Fri, 12/11	12:10 PM	+Jack Haag			
Sat, 12/12	4:30 PM	+Marilyn Fischer & Joan Marie Scherer			

Collections for the Weekends of November 21 & 22 and 28 & 29 (please see next week's bulletin for the annual financial report!)

St. Bernard: \$3,052.05 (11/22) and \$3,761 (11/29)	St. Mary: \$723 (11/22), \$160 (Human Development Collection), and \$635 (11/29)
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Mass Readings

Sun, 12/6	Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalms 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Luke 3:4, 6; Mark 1:1-8
Mon, 12/7	Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalms 85:9AB & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Luke 5:17-26
Tue, 12/8	Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalms 98:1, 2-3AB, 3CD-4; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:28; Luke 1:26-38
Wed, 12/9	Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Matthew 11:28-30
Thu, 12/10	Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalms 145:1 & 9, 10-11, 12-13AB; Isaiah 45:8; Matthew 11:11-15
Fri, 12/11	Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Matthew 11:16-19

Rosary Rally

On Saturday, October 10 at 11:30 AM, several St. Bernard parishioners and friends of the parish gathered at the corner of Broadway and University Avenue in front of the church parking lot to honor Our Lady and ask her intercession for our country and the entire world as part of a nationwide Rosary Rally organized by America Needs Fatima. For the last several years, St. Bernard parishioner Gabrielle Ferrer has been instrumental in arranging for this public recognition of Mary's patronage of the United States by honoring her and asking for her defense against evil in our society.

Those in attendance included Gabrielle, Pierre, Sonji, Marcel, and Tristan Ferrer; Jodi Beskitt; Mary Cooke; Pat, Catherine, and Dan Coffman; Lee Lorkowski (Visitation Parish); John Horvath; Bob Berdis (SS. Philip & James Parish); Jackie Haydu; Kathleen Considine; Michelle Schmidt; Victor Estafen; Vic Dandrea; Elizabeth Heimbaugh; Jim and Jane Casey (St. Sebastian Parish); Ray Compton; George Knowch; Betty Kalil; and Fred and Sue Kramer. *(Photo courtesy of Dave Monsour – Thanx, Dave!)*



The Rally started out by recognizing the miracles and warnings of Our Lady of Fatima, from the time she appeared to Maria dos Santos, and Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto in Portugal. Then we prayed the Rosary, with meditations on the Joyful Mysteries, the Prayer to St. Michael, the Prayer of St. Maximilian Kolbe, and the Litany of Our Lady. ***Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us and our country!***

Meanwhile, At St. Mary – Colleen Antalek, St. Mary



Gray clouds and a slight dip in temperature did not stop a joyful procession of St. Mary parishioners from honoring Our Lady of Fatima with a public procession and celebration on Sunday, October 18.

Father Chris led the procession with the Blessed Sacrament, followed by the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima carried by four parishioners, and an altar server. *(Photo above: acolyte John Paul Antalek, men carrying Our Lady, L-R Tom Crookston, Vincent Politano, Perry Antalek, and Gabriel Crookston; Fr. Chris Zerucha bearing the Blessed Sacrament – photo courtesy of Fr. Chris)*

The Glorious mysteries were prayed, with the first decade beginning in the church and the following four decades at four different points on the parish and school property and concluding in the church. A luncheon and social time followed the procession.

Mary, Mother of God, Patroness of the Americas and of St. Mary Parish, Pray for Us!

The Crusader's Corner – Mrs. Ruth Dietzel, St. Mary School



The Kindergarten students at St. Mary attended a Book Bistro during Thanksgiving week. The Bistro provided an opportunity for students to enjoy two of their favorite things together – books and food! Students shared their favorite books with friends while enjoying some special treats. Reading is a social activity. We enjoy books more, as well as learn more, when we share books with friends!



Our Faith, Morality, and the COVID-19 Vaccine

Fr. Joseph Koopman, moral theologian at St. Mary Seminary in Wickliffe, recently wrote an evaluation of the morality and ethics of the COVID-19 vaccine that is close to being released to the public. There has been some question among Catholics of whether or not we are permitted to receive vaccines for COVID-19, especially because various news outlets have reported controversy regarding embryonic stem cells or tissue from aborted children that were used in the vaccines' development and production.

With the current information available, (which may change once more information is released,) Fr. Koopman has written that it appears that the vaccines developed by Pfizer/Biontech and Moderna have **not** been created using embryonic stem cells and/or the tissue of aborted children. Therefore, there are no moral or religious grounds which would restrict faithful Catholics from receiving the vaccines.

There has been talk in the media that suggests the vaccines may have been tested using the tissue of aborted children. Therefore, some say that it would place Catholics in a gravely immoral situation if they were to receive the vaccine. Says Fr. Koopman, "This sweeping conclusion is inconsistent with Catholic moral teaching. A critical question is: 'Are Catholics always forbidden to perform an action if it touches upon evil, or cooperates, somehow, with the evil action of another?' The answer is 'no'. There certainly are instances when Catholics must refrain from immoral cooperation. However, Catholic teaching on moral cooperation makes critical distinctions (mediae/immediate, proximate/remote, etc.) to determine the degree or level to which one cooperates in evil. In some cases, some forms of cooperation, while unfortunate, can be allowed in certain circumstances. Unfortunately, we live in a fallen world. Dig deep enough, and one finds that many of our actions somehow touch upon evil and the evil actions of others. While the Church draws a firm line in delineating certain acts of cooperation as immoral, it does not condemn all actions of cooperation as such."

From the beginning of research into the COVID-19 vaccine, the Church has challenged researchers and the medical industry to reject the use of embryonic stem cells and aborted children. Embryonic stem cells and from the tissue of aborted children. But the receiving of vaccines made not from any of these immoral methods and yet tested in an immoral way is in another moral category, one that permits Catholics to receive such vaccines.

If other vaccines are released which do not use material of illicit origin, Catholic moral teaching would direct Catholics to utilize the option that is least morally problematic (i.e., to use the vaccines that were not created via such immoral means). If you want to know if it is okay to receive a certain vaccine and you know its name, Fr. Koopman recommends checking the website of the Charlotte Lozier Institute for the most reliable and up to date information.

Forward in Faith Concerts at St. Bernard

There are several concerts still planned during the Advent and Christmas seasons in support of the *Moving Forward in Faith* campaign to pay for critical restoration projects at St. Bernard. More details can be found at <https://www.stbernardakron.org/moving-forward-in-faith-campaign-events>. All performances will be streamed through Facebook, YouTube, and sermon.net. They will also be recorded for future enjoyment and replication. Limited seating is available in person. The cost for attending is a donation to the campaign. You can give to the campaign by visiting the web page above, by sending a pledge to the parish at 44 University Ave., Akron, OH 44308, by dropping off an envelope or making a pledge in person. Thank you! *You may view past concerts on Facebook or the parish website, www.stbernardakron.org.

Fri, 12/4	6:30 PM – 8 PM	Historical Concert: A Lecture on the History of St. Bernard by Fr. David Halaiko, Author of <u>Akron Area Catholic and Orthodox Churches: A Photographic Pilgrimage</u> , and a Hybrid Performance of Remote and Live Musicians; True Historical COVID Togetherness!
Sat, 12/12	4:30 PM – 7 PM	Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and Mariachi Concert. Mariachi Santa Cecilia will accompany 4:30 PM Mass and play mariachi music from 6 PM to 7 PM. There may not be much live seating available due to the concert starting immediately after Mass.
Sat, 12/18 Sun 12/19		Summit Choral Society Christmas Candlelight Series 2020. Visit https://www.summitchoralsociety.org/season-events.html . No live seats available for these concerts, but please watch online and show the Summit Choral Society some support!
Sun, 12/27	6:15 PM	A Christmas Concert featuring musicians and choirs from St. Bernard.
Sat, 1/2	7 PM – 9:30 PM	Contemporary Christian Worship Concert and Holy Hour of Thanksgiving and Praise with Jaime Masetta and Matt Fafrak. (https://jaimemasetta.com/) (http://www.mattfafrak.com/)

Giving Trees

Please visit the Giving Trees in the main areas of St. Bernard and St. Mary churches and take some tags home for holiday giving. The gifts you thoughtfully select will be distributed before Christmas. Please remember to resist the urge to include candy or anything edible – we do not want any unwelcome gifts to show up with yours! We would like all gifts returned by December 13th so they may be distributed no later than December 20th. God will **never** be outdone in generosity! Thank you!



Christmas/New Year's Confession and Mass Schedules

There is no obligation to attend Mass on Immaculate Conception, Christmas, and New Year's Day (Feast of Mary, Mother of God) this year. However, the Mass and Confession schedule is included below. On Christmas Eve and Day, overflow seating will be available in the social halls of both parishes, and a live stream of the Masses will be broadcast in the halls as well at the 4:30 PM, 5 PM, 9 AM and 10 AM Masses. An Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will come to the parish hall to distribute Holy Communion at the usual time. We are only able to accommodate half the capacity of each church, which is why we are offering a few extra Masses and extra seating options.

The Masses available online will be the 4:30 PM or 5 PM Christmas Eve Masses, and the 10 AM Christmas Day Mass: www.stbernardstmary.org.

Confession Times Now Until January 1, 2021		
Wed, 12/9	7:30 PM-8:30 PM	St. Bernard
Sat, 12/12	3 PM-4 PM	St. Bernard
Fri, 12/18	7 PM-8 PM	St. Bernard
Sat, 12/19	3 PM-4 PM	St. Bernard
Mon, 12/21, Tue, 12/22, & Wed, 12/23	11 AM-Noon	St. Bernard
Wed, 12/23	7:30 PM-8:30 PM	St. Bernard
Thu, 12/24	9:30 AM-10 AM; 11 AM-Noon	St. Mary
Sat, 12/26	3 PM-4 PM	St. Bernard
Fri, Jan 1	11 AM-Noon	St. Bernard

Special Mass Times now Until January 1, 2021		
December 8 (Feast of the Immaculate Conception), December 25 (Christmas), and January 1 (Feast of Mary, Mother of God) are <u>NOT OBLIGATORY</u> this year. For Christmas, overflow space will be available at the parish halls, where we will broadcast the Mass. Holy Communion will be distributed in the church and in the halls.		
Mon, 12/7	5 PM	St. Mary
Tue, 12/8	12:10 PM	St. Bernard
Wed, 12/9	8:45 AM	St. Mary
Sat/Sun 12/12, 12/13, 12/19, & 12/20	Normal Masses at Normal Times (12/12, 4:30 PM Our Lady of Guadalupe)	St. Bernard and St. Mary
Wed, 12/16	8:45 AM	St. Mary
Thu, 12/24	10 AM (DAILY Mass)	St. Mary
	4:30 PM (Christmas Eve)	St. Bernard
	5 PM (Christmas Eve)	St. Mary
	7 PM (Christmas Eve - Spanish)	St. Bernard
	10 PM (Christmas Eve)	St. Bernard
Fri, 12/25	Midnight	St. Bernard
	9 AM	St. Mary
	10 AM	St. Bernard
Sat/Sun 12/26 & 12/27	Normal Masses at Normal Times	St. Bernard and St. Mary
Thu, 12/31	6 PM	St. Bernard
Fri, 1/1	9:30 AM Rosary/10 AM Mass	St. Mary

Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Tilma of Juan Diego - Est. December 1531

EYES

Contain images of the scene with Juan Diego and the bishop that are visible only with modern technology.

HANDS

United in prayer. The left is darker and the right is lighter, representing the two races.

RIBBON

A symbol of virginity. Its placement indicates she is with child.

FLOWER

patterns are glyphs of the native language, contain various intricate messages.

TEMPERATURE

of the Tilma is constant at 98.6 degrees, the same as that of a living body

ENDURANCE

The colors of the image are miraculously fresh and bright for being more than 500 years old. The fabric the image is made on normally disintegrates in 15-30 years yet the Tilma shows no sign of fading or cracking.

RESILIENCE

The Tilma has survived a bomb attempt and also miraculously reconstituted itself after nitric acid solvent was spilled on it.

STARS

Are accurate to the actual constellations that would have appeared in the Mexican sky on December 12, 1531.

HEARTBEAT

A stethoscope placed below the black band detected rhythmic beats of 115 per minute, the same as a baby's in the womb

ORIGINS

No sign of paint, brush strokes, or underdrawing have been found; the image is irreproducible; and at 3-4 inches from the cloth, the image disappears

MOON

On a snake-skinned moon. A symbol of an Aztec serpent god of human sacrifices.

ANGEL

with feathered wings carries Mary to the people. The angel's red robe symbolizes the earth, while Mary's blue mantle symbolizes heaven.

