

February/March

2021

(Ordinary Time/Lent)



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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

Back to Basics: Encountering Christ Through Sacred Scripture in Lent 2021

After such a year as we have had in 2020, our focus points are naturally going to be all over the place: finding new employment, finding better employment, recovering our economy, deciding when to try and venture out at a normal rate, trying to find all of the health rules for each new thing we want to do, learning a new style of leadership from a different president, who is safe, who is not, and even something so simple as which core values we live by and what to do about them in a way that respects those values, our own selves, and the dignity of people around us. Many have said that the different choices being made regarding these and other factors are splitting families apart and the result of all of this together, basically, is chaos. What do we do when we are confronted with chaos? What do we do when our focus points are so numerous and scattered? We pray and we return back to the basics.

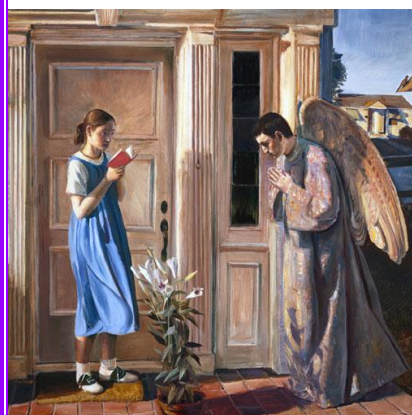


The Catechism of the Catholic Church 112 states that, “Scripture is a unity by reason of the unity of God’s plan, of which Christ Jesus is the center and heart, open since His Passover. The phrase ‘heart of Christ’ can refer to Sacred Scripture which makes known His heart.” We want to know what God wants. We want to know how all of these various factors might come together into one plan and vision from God the Father. We want to encounter the Living Jesus, who has a great reputation for healing us and making things right. We will do well, then, to make efforts to encounter God this year more than ever by reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture and seeking to encounter Jesus there.

Enclosed in this newsletter is our plan for the Lenten activities of our parishes this year. Please note the change in times for the Stations of the Cross, and that there will be several opportunities for retreats. Also, there will be a series of prayer and reflection evenings led by Deacon Ray DiMascio and our Deaconate Intern, Mike Constantini. Be aware that all these opportunities are going to be “in person”, and many of them are also going to be available by Zoom and by telephone. In each of the things we do together, I hope we can highlight aspects of Sacred Scripture that draw our uncommon focus points into the unity of the heart of Christ. We are, after all, His Body.

As the Catechism paragraph reminded us, Jesus’ own heart was not made known and clear without His own Passion. May we live passionately with faith through our challenges this Lent and find them unified by the enlivening foundation of Sacred Scripture, so that together with our fasting and our generosity, our common destiny and fulfillment in Christ will be made clear. Happy Lent! 😊 – Father Chris


Catholic Quote



“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked with favor on His humble servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name. He has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, He has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.”

Annunciation of Our Lady by the Angel Gabriel – Feast Day, March 25

Mass Intentions

St. Bernard			St. Mary		
Sun, 2/7	10:00 AM	+Rob Lucas	Sun, 2/7	9:00 AM	Intention of Elizabeth Bender, MD
	12:00 PM	+Ana Maria Tolmos	Wed, 2/10	8:45 AM	Special Intention
	8:00 PM	Men and Women in Consecrated Life	Sun, 2/14	9:00 AM	+George Knoch, Jr.
Mon, 2/8	12:10 PM	Intention of Keith Novak – Happy Birthday	<p>Please pray for the soul of Charles Thomas Murphy</p> 		
Tue, 2/9	12:10 PM	For the People of St. Bernard & St. Mary			
Wed, 2/10	12:10 PM	Surack Family Living & Deceased			
Thu, 2/11	12:10 PM	For the People of Akron & Surrounding Cities			
Fri, 2/12	12:10 PM	+Marilyn Fischer & Joan Marie Scherer			
Sat, 2/13	4:30 PM	Special Intention			
§Sun, 2/14	10:00 AM	+Duane Sanders			
	12:00 PM	+Arturo Tolmos Alfaro			
	8:00 PM	For the People of St. Bernard & St. Mary			

Collections for the Weekend of January 30 & 31

St. Bernard: \$3,764.00

St. Mary: \$463.00

Mass Readings

Sun, 2/7	Job 7: 1-4, 6-7; Psalms 147: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23; Mark 1: 29-39
Mon, 2/8	Genesis 1: 1-19; Psalms 104: 1-2a, 5-6, 10 & 12, 24 & 35c; Mark 6: 53-56
Tue, 2/9	Genesis 1: 20-2: 4a; Psalms 8: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mark 7: 1-13
Wed, 2/10	Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-17; Psalms 104: 1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30; Mark 7: 14-23
Thu, 2/11	Genesis 2: 18-25; Psalms 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5; Mark 7: 24-30
Fri, 2/12	Genesis 3: 1-8; Psalms 32: 1-2, 5, 6, 7; Mark 7: 31-37
Sat, 2/13	Genesis 3: 9-24; Psalms 90: 2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13; Mark 8: 1-10

Ash Wednesday – February 17

Because of the current COVID restrictions, and following CDC and Diocesan guidelines, ashes for Ash Wednesday will be distributed by sprinkling on the head, for sanitation and health reasons. There will also be no Mass offered on campus at the University of Akron. Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation, but many people attend Mass this day in order to get their Lent off to a good start. It is a Day of Fast and Abstinence, however – 2 small meals and one regular-sized meal, no eating between meals, and no meat. Please check the following opportunities for Mass on February 17, which will also include distribution of ashes by sprinkling on the head, or for Short Ashes Services without Mass:



*Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.*

8:45 AM – Mass at St. Mary (*School Mass*)
9:30 AM – Short Ashes Service at St. Bernard (*No Mass*)
12:10 PM – Mass at St. Bernard
4:30 PM – Mass at St. Mary
5:30 PM – Mass at St. Bernard
8:00 PM – Short Ashes Service en Español at St. Bernard

Knights of Columbus Family of the Month for January

The family of Mike and Colleen Antalek of St. Mary Parish was selected by the Knights of Columbus Council #547 to receive their Family of the Month award for January.

The Antalek family have been parishioners of St. Mary for many years, including prior to the merger. Mike is a teacher, and Colleen homeschools their children. They enjoy doing things together, from raising honeybees to serving the parish.

Mike is on the collection counting team, and the entire family assists at doughnut hour after Mass. The boys (Perry, Denny, John Paul, and Benedict) serve at Mass regularly and with reverence. Perry has joined the K of C, the most faithful Catholic men's service and fraternal organization in the world. Lucy and Perry sing with the parish choir, and youngest child Bea can't wait for her chance to serve the parish – as Lucy suggests, maybe she can hum with the choir (which would be very COVID-friendly!)

Whenever something needs doing at St. Mary, the Antaleks always seem to be on the spot, ready to help. When the paint on the St. Joseph altar started peeling, Colleen touched up and repaired it beautifully. The whole family participated in the 2019 Renaissance Festival at St. Mary, raising money for the parish while promoting our Faith.

The Antaleks are outstanding representatives of St. Mary and our Catholic Faith. They greet everyone with a smile and show what it means to be a faithful, joyful Catholic family. **(Photo Credit: Lisa Crookston)**



The Crusader's Corner – Suzanne Inglis, 4th Grade Teacher, St. Mary School

The Third and Fourth Graders and their teachers are very excited to have brand new Chromebook computers for the students to use. The students are able to use them to help with remote learning as needed, as well as many learning activities in the classrooms. We have been using them to complete schoolwork, practice math facts, and read about current and historic events through Scholastic News. We even traveled via Google Earth to visit the Statue of Liberty when learning about immigration. Thank you for our new Chromebooks!

A Christmas to Remember

Christmas of 2020 will go down in the books as one we may recall as the COVID Christmas AND a snowstorm Christmas! In true 2020 fashion, a snowstorm began around 3 PM which accumulated 12" by Christmas morning. While still under the COVID restrictions in place since March of 2020, our parishes looked with joyful hope to the Feast of the Nativity of



The Lord Jesus. With the agreement and help from both parish councils, Fr. Chris and Fr. Frank gladly added extra Mass and Confession opportunities to accommodate the anticipated crowds, especially in view of social



distancing and building capacity guidelines. There was even overflow space set up in both parish halls! Whatever courage people may have summoned to attend Mass in spite of Coronavirus was not at all helped by the snowfall. Needless to say, the extra space set up was not needed this year.



The Masses were still beautiful, however, and we have many to thank for their hard work! Firstly, the decorating crews of both St. Mary and St. Bernard. Second, Jake Herron, assisted by Joseph Levack, who streamed and recorded the Masses, which can still be seen on the Facebook pages of each parish. Both of them have been working hard since March to make sure these various Masses and liturgies are available live and archived online. Jake, especially, continues to lead the charge every Sunday morning, streaming the

10 AM and 12 Noon Masses.

Thank you as well to our dedicated altar servers, readers, ushers, choirs, and musicians. Finally, our music ministries led by Philip Mernagh, Jim Kintz, and Felipe Gonzalez, who put in hours of practice until the music was perfect and beautiful! We are indeed blessed by so many contributing their efforts to our parishes each and every week.



For those who could not make it but wanted to, enjoy a few photos to remind us of the beauty of Christmas 2020! **(Photo Credits: Judy Mosser (nativity) and Mark Pirie (altar) from St. Mary; and Dr. Rick Hofacker (altar) and Jim Cicora (nativity) from St. Bernard)**

Lives Well-Lived – Deacon Fred and Joyce Brown – by Susan Kramer, TOF

Deacon Dr. Fred Brown, aged 91, who faithfully served at St. Mary until the merger with St. Bernard in 2010, as well as Our Lady of the Cedars Maronite parish in Montrose, died on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 3, 2021. Deacon Fred had been living with his son, Fr. Stephan Brown, SVD at St. Joseph Parish in St. Petersburg, Florida, where Fr. Brown is pastor.



Deacon Fred was a doctor, and a veteran of the Korean War, serving the US Army as a Lieutenant. He worked at the Cleveland Clinic, developing artificial organs and studying the damage done to blood vessels by this. He taught nursing students at St. John College. He was appointed president of the Cleveland Catholic School Board in 1972. Fred also served as Civil Service Commissioner for the City of Warrensville Hts., and later as a City Councilman. Fred was active in the Holy Name Society, the Knights of

Columbus, and was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (*which, in Akron, focuses on providing quality housing for the underprivileged, including Channelwood near St. Mary.*) He served as rector to 10 teams of the Greater Cleveland Cursillo movement. He was also the first African-American deacon ordained in the Diocese of Cleveland. In addition to serving St. Mary as deacon, Fred and Joyce team-taught Religion at St. Mary School to the children. He and Joyce were associated with the Bread of Life Community here in Akron. In everything they did, they worked to further the mission of the Church.



Deacon Fred brought Jesus to his patients, his students, his parishioners, his family, and strangers. He walked every step of the way with his beloved wife of 64 years, Joyce (*who died in 2020*). They raised 6 children (Frederick – deceased, Dr. Sharon, Deacon Michael, Regina, Dr. Monica, and Fr. Stephan), who all grew to serve God as well.

Both Joyce and Deacon Fred were lay Franciscans for 17 years, and unselfishly assisted in teaching Formation classes to those discerning entering the Order. Deacon Fred also served as interim Spiritual Director at one point when there were no friars available.

Deacon Fred not only preached the Gospel – he and Joyce **lived** it. He was an exemplary Catholic, deacon, Franciscan, family man and servant to his community and parishes, inspiring others to follow his worthy example. We were blessed to be touched by his ministry, and by his dear Joyce, who actively assisted and strengthened Fred, and worked for the Kingdom of God every day of her life.

***May the angels lead Fred and Joyce on their journey to Heaven,
and may they see the loving face of Jesus!***

(Photo Credit: Dr. Jose Ventosa, Third Order Franciscan)

Lenten Confession and Special Events - Dates and Times

Check out our special Lenten Section of the bulletin and the bulletin boards at the churches for special Lenten opportunities happening around Summit County this Lent! Daily fasting facilitated by The Wilderness Group. To take a day on the fasting schedule, email Fr. Chris @ czeru@stbernardstmary.org. We will fast for an increase in peace and respect for human dignity.

Confession Opportunities

Day/Date	Time	Location
Wed, 2/17	7:30 PM-8:30 PM	St. Bernard
Fri, 3/5	11 AM-12:00 Noon	St. Bernard
Fri, 4/2	11 AM-12:00 Noon	St. Bernard

***Confession is available Saturdays from 3 PM to 4 PM, as well as on First Fridays from 11 PM to 12 Noon, and the 3rd Friday of each month from 7 PM to 8 PM, all year at St. Bernard. For Confession by appointment, call (330) 253-5161. Don't put off going to Confession! Jesus wants to reconcile with you, & He is waiting for you.**

Lenten Special Events

«»«»«» - option to attend via phone or Zoom. See parish homepage or call parish office for the login instructions.

Day/Date/Time	Event	Location
	RISE Men's Challenge: Register at https://coaching.reallifecatholic.com/RISE-Enroll-Now . Need-based scholarships available. Contact Fr. Chris.	
	Catholic Reads for Women: https://www.catholicmom.com/articles/new-spiritual-reads-for-lent	
	Divine Mercy Cenacle Lenten Prayers – see Bulletin Inserts	
	Rite of Election 2021 – Add your message to the boards in Church to support those joining us in the Faith this year!	
Thu, 2/18 at 7 PM «»«»«»	Lenten Prayer Service & Reflection	St. Bernard & Online
Fri, 2/19 at 4:40 PM «»«»«»	Stations of the Cross	St. Bernard
Fri, 2/19 at 7 PM	Holy Hour and Confession	St. Bernard
Thu, 2/25 at 7 PM «»«»«»	Lenten Prayer Service and Reflection	St. Bernard & Online
Fri, 2/26 at 4:40 PM «»«»«»	Stations of the Cross	St. Bernard
Mon, 3/1 at 6 PM (Pls RSVP)	Investigating Being a Priest, Deacon, or Nun 1: Dinner, fun & games with nuns, former nuns, deacons, Fr. Chris, & seminarians	St. Bernard
Thu, 3/4 at 7 PM «»«»«»	Lenten Prayer Service and Reflection	St. Bernard & Online
Fri, 3/5 at 4:40 PM «»«»«»	Stations of the Cross	St. Bernard
Sun, 3/7 at 12 Noon-3:30 PM Registration Required!	Bilingual & Bicultural Family Lenten Retreat with Mass and Lunch	St. Bernard
Thu, 3/11 at 7 PM «»«»«»	Lenten Prayer Service and Reflection	St. Bernard & Online
Fri, 3/12 at 4:40 PM «»«»«»	Stations of the Cross	St. Bernard
Thu, 3/18 at 7 PM «»«»«»	Lenten Prayer Service and Reflection – How God Calls	St. Bernard & Online
Fri, 3/19 at 4:40 PM «»«»«»	Stations of the Cross	St. Bernard
Fri, 3/19 at 7 PM	Holy Hour and Confession	St. Bernard
Sat, 3/20 at 9:30 AM-3:30 PM Registration Required!	Retreat with NET Ministries for Grades 7-12	St. Mary
Thu, 3/25 at 7 PM «»«»«»	Lenten Prayer Service and Reflection	St. Bernard & Online
Fri, 3/26 at 4:40 PM «»«»«»	Stations of the Cross	St. Bernard
Sun, 3/28 at 10 AM-2:30 PM	Investigating Being a Priest, Deacon or Nun 2: Mass, Seminary visit, Seminary tour, Funny and Serious Stories about Becoming One.	Depart St. Bernard at 10 AM; return by 2:30 PM

Holy Week 2021 Masses and Devotions to be announced. Check bulletin and website in mid-March!

Pope Francis has proclaimed the Year of St. Joseph, from December 8, 2020 through December 8, 2021



From the Vatican News website, “Pope Francis describes St. Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.”

Further, “The Holy Father wrote *Patris Corde (With a Father’s Heart)* against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which, he says has helped us see more clearly the importance of ‘ordinary’ people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble St. Joseph, ‘the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,’ who nonetheless played ‘an incomparable role in the history of salvation.’”

There is a plenary indulgence which will be granted during the Year of St. Joseph, under the following guidelines (per [Vatican News](#)): The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (Sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope’s intentions) to Christians who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph on these occasions and manners indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary:

- The plenary indulgence is granted to those who will meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer, or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph. “St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us”, the decree reads, “to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God’s will.”
- The indulgence can also be obtained by those who, following St. Joseph’s example, will perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy. St. Joseph “encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties,” the decree notes.
- The recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences, in order that “all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family.”
- Everyone who entrusts their daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph, and every faithful who invokes the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work can also obtain the plenary indulgence. On 1 May 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph “with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties.”
- The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will recite the Litany to St. Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the *Akathistos* to St. Joseph (for the Byzantine tradition), or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church *ad intra* and *ad extra*, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution. Because, the decree notes, “the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment.”

Prayer to St. Joseph

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance with which Jesus Christ has purchased by His Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;

O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence;

O our most mighty protector, be kind to us, and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God’s Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

Good St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

Feast Day of St. Joseph – March 19

Feast Day of St. Joseph the Worker – May 1