

April/May, 2021

(Easter /
Ascension / Pentecost)



www.stmaryakron.com

Phone: 330-253-5161

The Memorare

Volume 2, Issue 2

Editor:
Fr. Chris Zerucha

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

Endings and Beginnings –

In the prayer over the water at the Easter Vigil and at all Baptisms, we recall that through water, God has saved His people many times and has often used water in the process. The Red Sea is referenced, the chaotic waters of Creation are referenced, and even the water and blood that flowed from Jesus' side at the Crucifixion are referenced.

In the part where The Flood is referenced, the Old Testament says, "through the waters of the great flood, you made a sign of the waters of baptism, that make an end of sin and a new beginning of goodness." Not that we have a whole lot of sin that is ending here at the parishes, because we don't!

But I do feel that in many ways we are coming to an end of one way and a new beginning of goodness as we look forward to summer time. Teacher contracts are signed, and the fourth quarter of school has begun. New Christians have been or soon will receive their initiation Sacraments. And we are seeing the retirement of three critical members of the Staff: Cheri Colianni (April 15), Will Jendrisak (July 15), and Father Frank Basa (July 1)!

Practically speaking, not much will change for Father Frank and his role at the parishes. But it will be nice for him to have that retirement status and the ability to go by a more relaxed schedule. As well, we are so grateful to God for all that Will and Cheri have accomplished for us in their careers, and they will be greatly missed!

I am personally thankful to both of them for all they have done to make learning the ropes on me, making sure I am comfortable and in the know as pastor! We look forward to the results of the discussions happening in both parish councils right now as to the next new moves to make in our parish life activities.

Finally, BRING ON THE WEDDINGS!!! For 12 couples between now and January 1, 2022, it will mean the end of their single lives and the beginning of their one life together in Holy Matrimony! Please pray for them and for all of us who are responsible for helping them get to that day when they can say with certainty and confidence, "I do!" Better weather, less risk of contracting the virus, Easter Time full of readings about the life of the Church in the Holy Spirit! Lots of opportunities! May we too be willing to usher in ends and welcome God bringing new beginnings of goodness! – Father Chris

Catholic Quote



"The proof of perfect love of Our Lord is seen in the perfect love of our neighbor."

St. John of Avila (1499-1569)

Priest, Preacher, Author, Mystic, and Doctor of the Church

Mass Intentions

St. Bernard			St. Mary		
Sun, 4/18	10 AM	+Monroe Curtis	Sun, 4/18	9 AM	Lou Becker
	12 PM	+Emiliano Zuñiga	Wed, 4/21	8:45 AM	+Mark Calvin James
	8 PM	Deceased of Albanese Family	Sun, 4/25	9 AM	+Ronald Conring
Mon, 4/19	12:10 PM	+Roberto Noel			
Tue, 4/20	12:10 PM	Pro Populo			
Wed, 4/21	12:10 PM	+Walter & Virginia Zajdel			
Thu, 4/22	12:10 PM	+Maria Banks			
Fri, 4/23	12:10 PM	Living & Deceased of Colianni Family			
Sat, 4/24	4:30 PM	Kitty Dilley			
Sun, 4/25	10 AM	+Bob Freund			
	12 PM	Intention of Eric Fela			
	8 PM	Paul Christoff			

Offertory Collections for the Weekend of April 10 and 11

St. Bernard: \$5,909

St. Mary: \$1,016

Mass Readings

Sun, 4/18	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19	Psalms 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24:2, 4, 7-8 9	1 st John 2:1-5	Luke 24:35-48
Mon, 4/19	Acts 6:8-15	Psalms 119: 23-24, 26-27, 29-30		John 6:22-29
Tue, 4/20	Acts 7:51-8:1	Psalms 31: 3-4, 6, 7, 8, 17, 21		John 6:30-35
Wed, 4/21	Acts 8:1-8	Psalms 66: 1-3, 4-5, 6-7		John 6:35-40
Thu, 4/22	Acts 8:26-40	Psalms 66: 8-9, 16-17, 20		John 6:44-51
Fri, 4/23	Acts 9:1-20	Psalms 117: 1, 2		John 6:52-59
Sat, 4/24	Acts 9:31-42	Psalms 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17		John 6:60-69

Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord Reminder

The Feast of the Ascension will be celebrated Sunday, May 16, on what would normally be the Seventh Sunday of Easter. In some Dioceses of the United States, it is celebrated on Thursday, May 13. However, the feast day has been moved to Sunday, May 16 in the Diocese of Cleveland. It is a Holy Day of Obligation – as are *all* Sunday liturgies, including the vigil Mass. It is the duty of all Catholics to attend Mass on Holy Days of Obligation and Sunday or vigil Masses, and it is a mortal sin to purposefully avoid these Masses, unless one is sick or conditions make it impossible to attend.

Blessed Easter / Bendita Pascua



Thanks to “a cast of thousands”, as Fr. Chris put it, we enjoyed a very joyful Easter at both parishes. The efforts of so many – decorators, choirs, musicians, readers, altar servers, Deacon Ray, deacon-in-training Mike Constantini and seminarian Connor Hetzel, and of course our faithful parish priests, Fr. Chris and Fr. Frank, made this an Easter to treasure!

He is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

←Easter Vigil, St. Bernard

Easter Sunday, St. Mary

(Photo Credit Linda Crookston) →



2021 Confirmation

Friday, March 5, nine of our young people from St. Mary and St. Bernard received the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation from Fr. Chris Zerucha at St. Bernard. They will dedicate their lives to living as practicing, active Catholics and defending their Faith, with all the responsibilities, joys, and graces this brings. Each selected a patron saint whose life provides an inspiration and good example, and on whom they will depend for intercessory prayer.



Photo Credit – Ana Maria Tolmos Baker

The Confirmation class is as follows, with the name of their patron saints:

Yessica Dayana Alfaro Oliva – St. Ines
 Noah Tolmos Baker – St. Luke
 Luke Emmanuel Ballard – St. Jose
 Gabriel James Crookston – St. Jose Sanchez del Rio
 Joshua Alexandro Hernandez-Royas – St. Bernardo
 Victor Thomas Monsour – St. John
 Ana Nuñez – St. Anna Rosa
 Julie Annie Ragel-Rojas – St. Benito
 Daysi Bilaghi Sandoval Alvarado – St. Therese

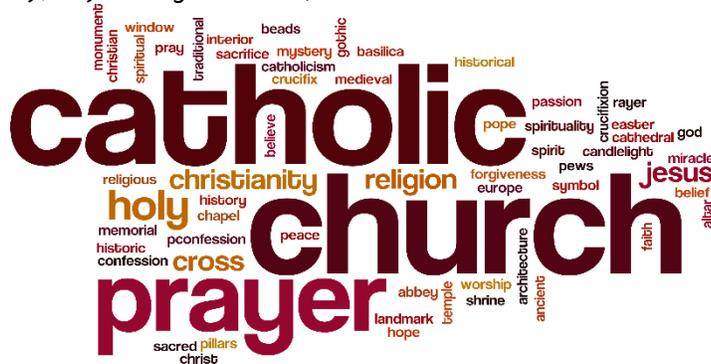
God bless and protect the 2021 Confirmation Class!

May they live in the joy of our Faith and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit!

Welcome and God Bless Our New Catholic Brothers and Sisters!



St. Bernard Parish welcomed ten new Catholics to the Church at Easter Vigil on April 3! They are: Jesús Adrian Hernandez, Melissa Rojas, Sophie Rojas, Stacey Bobbs, Yesica Oliva de Alfaro, Gabriel Nuñez, José Martinez, Megan McQuillen, Amanda Baker, and Neri Rodriguez. It is a wonderful blessing to have new members of our Faith and parish family. We look forward to getting to know all these new parishioners, who have studied hard and taken into their hearts our Catholic Faith and what it means to fully live it. God bless and protect you all, and welcome to St. Bernard Parish! (Yes, that is our good St. Joseph overlooking the 2021 RCIA Class – clearly, they are in good hands!)



Note: The following Mass and Reception notices are extended to *ALL* St. Bernard and St. Mary Parishioners, no matter what Mass or parish you attend. St. Bernard welcomes St. Mary parishioners to their Masses and receptions, and, in turn, St. Mary welcomes St. Bernard parishioners to their Mass and reception. Remember, you *must* RSVP for the St. Bernard receptions and wear a mask due to COVID restrictions. We gratefully share our beloved pastor, parochial vicar, and our Catholic Faith. This truly makes us an extended family. God bless Fr. Chris, Fr. Frank, and all of us at each parish!

Join us as we thank God
on the 50th Anniversary of the
Ordination of Father Frank Basa

Saturday, May 15, 2021 - St. Bernard Parish

Mass at 4:30 PM
Followed by a Reception in the Social Hall

RSVP **required** by May 1 to
St. Bernard Parish - (330) 253-5161 or
communications@stbernardstmary.org

Mass & reception will be livestreamed -
See St. Bernard website
www.stbernardakron.org/stream



St. Bernard writes that everything has come to us
through Mary; And we may say that everything
has come to us through the priest; yes, all
happiness, all graces, all heavenly gifts.
St. John Vianney, Patron Saint of Priests

St. Mary Parish Joyfully
Celebrates the
50th Anniversary of the Ordination
of Father Frank Basa and the
10th Anniversary of the Ordination
of Father Christopher Zerucha

Sunday, May 23
9 AM Mass
Reception Following Mass



“Man should tremble, the world should vibrate,
all heaven should be deeply moved when the
Son of God appears on the altar in the hands
of the priest.” - St. Francis of Assisi



“Do you wish to know if the people of any place
are righteous? Look what sort of a pastor they
have. If you find him pious, just, sound - believe
the people will be the same for they are
seasoned with the salt of his wisdom.”
- St. John Chrysostom

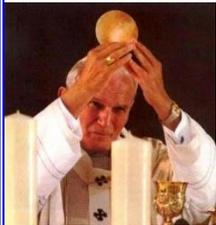
With great joy, we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Ordination of our pastor,
Father Christopher Zerucha

Sunday, June 6, 2021 – 10:00 AM Mass - St. Bernard Church

Reception to Follow - RSVP **required** by May 1 to

St. Bernard Parish – (330) 253-5161 or communications@stbernardstmary.org

Mass and reception will be livestreamed – See St. Bernard website www.stbernardakron.org/stream



*“I am deeply grateful to God for my vocation to the priesthood.
Nothing means more to me or gives me greater joy than to celebrate Mass
each day and to serve God’s people in the Church.” - St. John Paul II*

Lenten and Easter Retreats

In March, St. Mary Parish hosted a Youth Retreat for the teens and young people of St. Mary and St. Bernard. Nineteen of our young parishioners attended the all-day retreat, led by a team from NET Ministries. Many thanks for the generous hospitality of Dave and Marie Monsour and Tony and Linda Crookston, who opened their homes to the retreat team, providing them with a home away from home and delicious meals.



On March 27, St. Mary hosted a Lenten Women’s Retreat for the women of both parishes. Lisa Crookston and her team of volunteers planned out and provided study materials for over 40 women and young ladies. The day started with a prayer to St. Joseph, and continued with Mass, Adoration, Rosary, Confessions, and Stations. Marian Neugebauer from St. Sebastian Parish also gave a talk on the Passion through the eyes of Mary. Many thanks to Fr. Chris for Mass, Adoration, and Confessions, and to Stephanie Schreiber and Marian Neugebauer for leading the Stations of the Cross from the perspective of Our Lady.

← **Linda Crookston and Marian Neugebauer**



Saturday, April 10 St. Bernard hosted a Men’s Retreat, featuring Elvis Grbac and Larry Vuillemin, with 26 in attendance. The retreat was open to the men of both St. Bernard and St. Mary, as well as other area parishes. The retreat leaders focused on fraternity and spirituality in imitation of the bold witness of the Apostles.

←2021 Men’s



Retreat

2021 Women’s Retreat - Nancy Auquilla, Leonor Saltos, Flor Guzman, Alma Silva, Yesica Oliva, and Esperanza Aquirre →

The Crusader's Corner – Mrs. Kristan Heller – Distance Learning/Computer Teacher

The Spring Semester of 2021 has been busy and fun for students at St. Mary School. After a long first semester of hybrid classes, the teachers and students are glad to be back live and IN PERSON!! It is a wonderful blessing to have the students back in the classrooms. So much learning is taking place. We are happy and working hard to prepare St. Mary students for the world of tomorrow and beyond!

The primary students are '*Teaching their Monsters to Read*'. Students are learning mouse skills, login and logout procedures, keyboarding skills, and, of course, they are polishing their phonics and reading skills. Students teach their personal monster friends to read by traveling through many different adventures with their monsters to various magical kingdoms.

The 3rd Grade is busy creating digital scrapbooks about animals they are learning about in science class. Each student is creating a Google Slide deck that helps them discover, prepare, present and teach all the many new facts they are discovering about animals. These students are not 'monkeying around' when it comes to using technology to further their education!

Students in 4th – 7th Grades are discovering many new facts about the geography of Ireland, Irish culture, and, of course, our own beloved St. Patrick. Students are using Google Slides, the internet, Google Forms, and critical thinking skills to complete their '*Irish Quests*' to learn more about Ireland and the influence the Irish culture has on the entire world in the month of March.

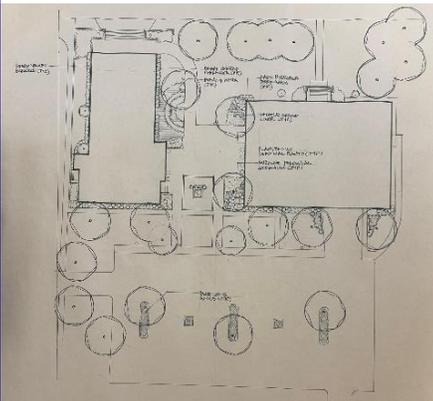
Grade 6 and Grade 7 students are creating their own *Kahoots*. Students will be able to use critical thinking skills, math skills, language arts skills, and current grade level science, technology, and social studies knowledge to challenge, teach and learn more about the world around them today. This skill, traditionally reserved for educators, is a great skill to master for presentations in the real world.

The 8th Grade students are working on a special project. They are creating a series of podcasts on a positive topic about which they are passionate. Students created their own podcast logo, will be recording three to five podcasts, and will collectively create a Google site where the podcasts will be posted to the public. 4th Grade students will also record short podcasts to celebrate Black History Month. These students will record podcasts about their favorite Black History heroes. Stay tuned to find out how you can listen to our student-led podcasts!

In addition to all the hard work the students and teachers have done, Dr. Nugent and I have been busy raising money to equip St. Mary students one-to-one with Chrome devices. As of April 1, 250 Chromebooks have been purchased, and each student at St. Mary will have access to their own personal Chrome device on loan to them each school year, beginning in 2021, and moving forward each school year. We are so excited to have been able to complete this goal in 9 months under the diligent guidance of Dr. Nugent.

This year has been filled with many challenges. With God's help, the faculty and staff of St. Mary have lovingly provided a safe, challenging, and Catholic learning environment for the students. Thank you for supporting the St. Mary students. We do appreciate all you have given to our school. Peace and Happy Spring!

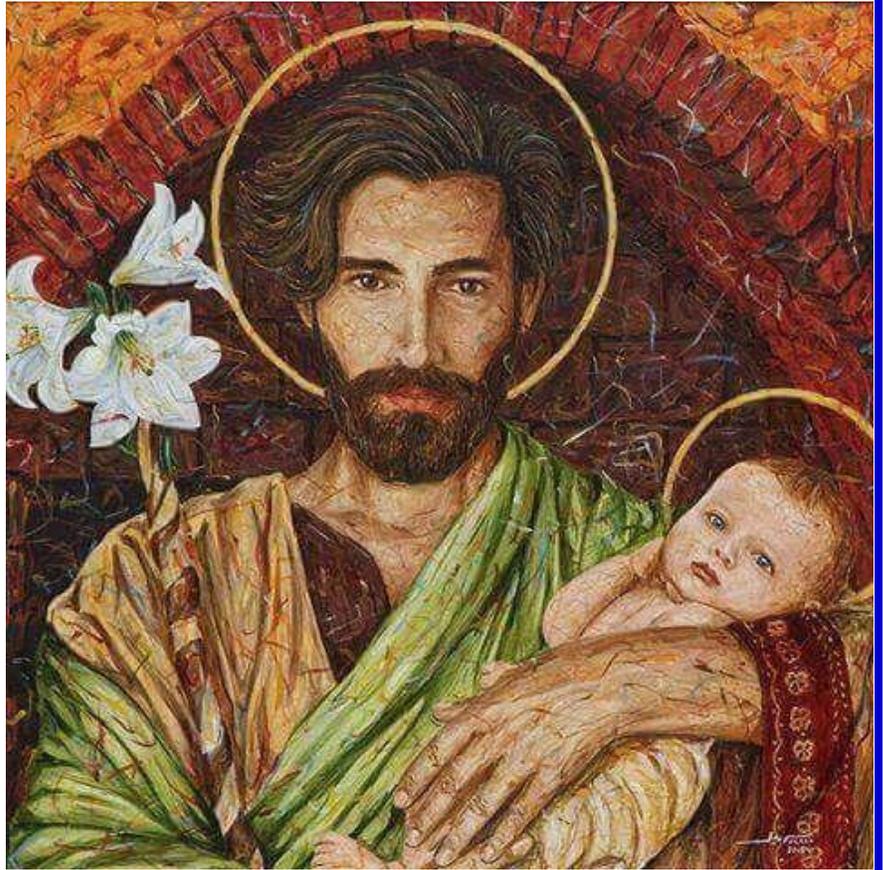
New Landscape Architecture Plan for St. Mary



Plans are in the works to spruce up the grounds of St. Mary Church and School this year! The new plantings will hopefully make St. Mary even more welcoming than it is now. Things are looking up in the neighborhood, with the new Fire Station and Aldi's remodeling, as well as the expressway and street improvements we are enjoying after such a long construction period, so we have to keep up with our neighbors! Keep watching for the improvements coming this summer!

Memorare of St. Joseph

Remember, O most chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who implored your help and sought your intercession was left unassisted. Full of confidence in your power, I fly unto you and beg your protection. Despise not, O Guardian of the Redeemer, my humble supplication, but in your bounty, hear and answer me. Amen.



Both parishes will offer a Novena and have speakers for this Year of St. Joseph beginning May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Please stay tuned to e-mail, Facebook, the bulletin, and announcements at Mass for more details!