

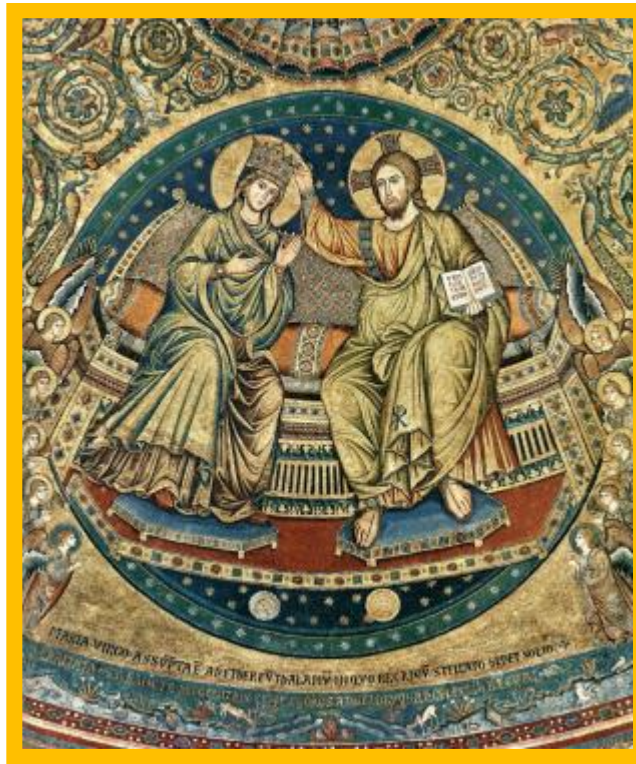
Saint Bernadette Parish

1343 Wheeling Road NE
LANCASTER, OH 43130-8701
(740) 654 • 1893

Saint Mary Parish

602 Marietta Street
BREMEN, OH 43107
(740) 569 • 7929

stbernadetteparish.net



The Coronation of Mary, Queen of Heaven

The first church dedicated to Our Lady was Saint Mary Major in Rome. The third ecumenical Council, the Council of Ephesus, had in 451 decreed that it is exactly right to call Mary “**Holy Mary, Mother of God,**” for she is mother of no split personality, but of him who is at the same time God and Man.

In 452, Pope Sixtus III began the building of this great church in her honor.

A great set of mosaics was added in 1296 by Jacopo Torriti, showing her involvement at the Annunciation, the Nativity, the Adoration of the Magi, the Presentation in the Temple, and the Dormition (or Assumption). Above these is presented this masterpiece of her Coronation as Queen of heaven. This is Mary

the queen [who] stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold

as she is called in Psalm 45:9. This will be our responsorial psalm prayer for the feast of her Assumption into heaven. The doctrine of this Assumption of Our Lady was proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1950, but has been believed throughout the life of the Church.

the 20th Sunday in the Year

August 14, 2016

Sacramental Life

BAPTISM

To have a child baptized, you must register and attend a class as a couple (unless attendance just isn't possible, in which case some discussion with Kathy Kehnast will be necessary). Sessions are held quarterly for both parishes. The next session will be Wednesday, **Sept 14. Take the class before the child is born.** If you are expecting, call Kathy to register for the class.

Please don't ask if you "have to go." This is an opportunity to meet with parents of children about the same age as your little one; they are in the same wonderful boat as you are.

At least one parent must be a practicing Catholic. **Both godparents need to be practicing Christians, at least one a practicing Catholic.** If you don't attend Sunday Mass regularly, there is something you can do about it: Start coming to Sunday Mass. If you can't come (health, severe weather, employment requirements, etc.), speak to your confessor. He will help you.

PENANCE

The priest is available for Penance

- at St Bernadette Saturdays at 3 PM and Thursdays at 5:30 PM, and
- at St Mary Bremen on Sunday at 8 AM.

In addition to Advent and Lenten Penance Services, every Catholic priest is available whenever there is a need. There are Penance opportunities for parochial school children **four times during the year so that they will learn the beauty of frequent confession.** The Church's law requires us to receive the sacrament of Penance at least once a year.

ANOIDING AND CARE OF THE SICK

The Sick receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick **when dangerously ill, facing major surgery, or suffering from the ravages of old age.**

We celebrate the sacrament communally at a Sunday Mass before Advent and during the Easter season so that we can all pray with you for "health of mind and body."

And, we are happy to bring Penance, Anointing, and Holy Communion to the homes or hospitals of the sick or shut in. It is very helpful to **call the parish office to let us know before a hospitalization or when it has been too long** since the sacraments were last available.

HOLY MATRIMONY

Couples wishing to marry sacramentally should contact the parish office six months before they wish to celebrate the sacrament.

Why so long? Because **this sacrament, not just the ceremony, requires serious preparation.** And the Church needs to be involved in that preparation. She tries to support couples through the years of their married life. For this reason our diocese offers programs to enhance married life. To learn how, watch the weekly bulletin.

Our Parishes

AT BOTH PARISHES

Fr Thomas Kessler	pastor	(614) 634-0499	wnthomaskessler@icloud.com
Kathy Kehnast	pastoral coordinator	(740) 654-1893	stbeparish@yahoo.com
Angie & Kent Kerns	religious education	(740) 654-2588	kwkerns@gmail.com
Julie & Chase Stalford	youth ministry	(740) 808-7294	maristellaspirt@gmail.com
Nikki Schmelzer	bookkeeper	(740) 654-1893	businessstbparish@yahoo.com

AT BREMEN ST MARY PARISH

Ben Factor	liturgical music		b_factor@lancaster.kl2.oh.us
Jim Schmelzer	maintenance chair		
Tyna Fox-Schmelzer	religious education	(614) 371-7702	schmelifox@earthlink.net
Bremen St Vincent de Paul		(740) 569-3710	

The St Mary Parish office is at the church vestibule.
Hours are 9-11 AM, Tu. 569-7929
602 Marietta St, Bremen, OH 43107

AT ST BERNADETTE PARISH

Deacon Mark Scarpitti		(740) 438-3970	dcn.mark@frontier.com
Deacon Jeff Carpenter		(740) 681-9918	carpenter.277@osu.edu
Ann Essman	pastoral minister	(740) 653-9347	aessman001@att.net
Steve Huber	facilities coordinator	(740) 654-3137	shuber57@yahoo.com
Liz Latorre	liturgical music	(740) 243-1872	lizlatorre@gmail.com

The St Bernadette Parish office is in the Mary Good Center, across the back parking lot from the school.
Hours are: 9 AM-1 PM, MWThF; 11 AM-1 PM, Tu.
1343 Wheeling Rd NE, Lancaster, OH 43130

AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

Pam Eltringham	principal	(740) 654-3137	peltring@cdeducation.org
Barb Huber	secretary	(740) 654-3137	bhuber@cdeducation.org

Saint Bernadette School is at 1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701
www.stbernadetteschool.com
stberlan@cdeducation.org

let us pray

FOR THE 20TH SUNDAY

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

AND WITH POPE FRANCIS IN AUGUST

His universal intention is about sports
That sports may be an opportunity for friendly encounters between peoples and may contribute to peace in the world.

His evangelization intention is about living the Gospel
That Christians may live the Gospel, giving witness to faith, honesty, and love of neighbor.

in both our parishes

rcia — who is this month of Sundays for?

Please recruit now! Extend the annual invitation to come to the Catholic Church! Or to come home. Or to find out what it is that Catholic Christians actually believe — even for those who are already Catholics. You could come to help those others who are interested. Or you could postpone it for another year. Perhaps you have postponed it in the past. When do you suppose you will quit postponing and come?

The first RCIA (**Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults**) session is Aug 21 ... that's next Sunday evening. So there isn't much more time for hemming and hawing. Plan to come. Call Kathy and let her know you are coming. We'll make a place for you!

The Catholic Faith has **beautiful and true answers to the questions people ask about the meaning of our lives**. Are you or is your husband or wife or a friend searching for that meaning? Do you want to find deeper unity for your marriage and family? You or someone you know may want to learn what this Faith has to offer. Not the cartoon image of Catholicism that a hostile society presents, but the Faith of the Church herself. Sometimes a person already Catholic wants to find out what it is really all about. It can be anyone, in any circumstance of life.

The RCIA helps such folks to find what they are looking for. Many people don't know of this vital resource—unless we tell them. It is not a matter for insistence or pressure. It is a sharing, an invitation that is respectful. **The invitation** will be much more attractive when extended by **someone willing to accompany the quester** along the way.

People who have benefitted personally from the RCIA experience are urged to gather with the inquirers, serving as sponsors and mentors of various kinds, to help them, if it is God's will, to become grafted onto the life of the Catholic Christian Church.

RCIA in our parishes will meet each **Sunday evening for about a month of Sundays**, beginning on Aug 21. That is only a week off. Call Kathy at 654-1893 on Tuesday morning at Bremen St Mary or any other weekday morning at St Bernadette for information.

it is still a holy day!

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven is tomorrow, Monday, Aug 15. And it is a holy day. Only **this year it is not a holy day of obligation**. In the United States we are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on our holy days when they occur on a Saturday or a Monday. (That most assuredly does not include Christmas!)

But the Assumption of Mary is something very much to be celebrated. She was redeemed from bodily corruption; her body was not buried. Instead **she rose from the dead right away and was assumed into heaven**. You see, on this day we celebrate the second of the two feast days which take **joyful note of how she participated in the salvation of humanity by her Son** from the dire fallenness of our human condition. On Dec 8 we remember that, **from the moment she was conceived, she was free from the burden of original sin**. Sin and death, the painful reality of the human condition, the things Jesus came to redeem us from — one of us, Mary, the one most intimately involved in that Redemption, has already begun to share in its most wondrous effects.

Now that is something to celebrate, obligation or no obligation. **See you in church?**

get ready for Mass

If it is something special, we get ready for it. That goes for Sunday Mass. The most important way to get ready is to be in—or get into—the **state of grace** so that we can receive Holy Communion worthily. Then we need to **fast** (a tough word for a very easy task) for at least an hour before we receive Communion. And we could try to prime the pump, as it were, for hearing the Word of God as it will be read that day by **reading and pondering that little portion of the Word of God**. Those are matters of spiritual readiness.

But to go to Mass is to approach the great sacramental mysteries, **approaching physically as well as spiritually**. Old-fashioned rural Protestants were on to something when they spoke of wearing their **“Sunday-go-to-meetin’ clothes.”** We could all **dress up** a little bit, not to show off our fancy wardrobe but to “do something beautiful for God.”

And think of what we say to our kids before a trip or before a film or a concert or a ride on the ferris wheel: We tell them to **go to the bathroom ahead of time**. Emergencies can happen to just about everybody. And each of us has the health she/he has been blessed with. But with a little extra precaution we could be (and help others to be) even more single-minded about worship and to avoid the procession to and from the rest rooms. Thanks for thinking about all these things.

Mass times and intentions

at St Bernadette		at St Mary	
4 PM	Anna Alonso	Saturday, Aug 13	
		Sunday, Aug 14	8:30 AM for the people
11 AM	for the people	Sunday, Aug 14	
8:20 AM	Bob Guinan	Monday, Aug 15	
		Monday, Aug 15	NOON for the people
6 PM	for the people	Monday, Aug 15	
		Tuesday, Aug 16	8:20 AM Wayne Kelley
8:20 AM	Pete Konkler	Wednesday, Aug 17	
6 PM	Helen Henry	Thursday, Aug 18	
8:20 AM	Daniel Hoover	Friday, Aug 19	
4 PM	for the people	Saturday, Aug 20	
		Sunday, Aug 21	8:30 AM for the people
11 AM	for the people	Sunday, Aug 21	

bishop's annual appeal 2016

“be his hope to others”

Here are the final results for this year at our parishes.

households participating	St Bernadette	St Mary
total pledged	\$ 38,180	\$ 21,210
average gift	\$ 271	\$ 348
total paid	\$ 19,130	\$ 5,845
parish BAA goal	\$ 43,136	\$ 12,703

Thank you for your support.

the Church in latin America

Thank you for your generous donations to the **Collection for the Church in Latin America**. At St Mary Parish we gave \$90. At St Bernadette we contributed \$216. Your gifts to the collection will fund catechesis, pastoral programs, marriage and family life projects, seminarian education, and many other necessary programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. By funding these programs, your support will provide seeds to grow the faith for years to come.

pray in church

You can come to church to adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament **any day, during daylight hours** at either St Bernadette or Bremen St Mary. The front doors of both churches are unlocked during the day. People praying in church are welcome to **turn a light on** when it's needed. They are also urged to **turn off lights** when they aren't necessary.

st bernadette

please pray for their souls

Please pray for **Robert Daubenmire** and **Ann Ciegalis**, both formerly of St Bernadette Parish, and **Alfred Brown**, widower of Diane Brown of St Bernadette. Bob died in California and Alfred in Lancaster, both during July. Bob's ashes were returned for burial at St Mary Cemetery last week. Ann died last week and her ashes will be returned for a funeral Mass at St Bernadette and burial at St Mary Cemetery on Aug 23. May they all rest in peace.

st bernadette school is back

St Bernadette School will be back in session on Wednesday, Aug 17. The first order of business (after attendance taking and the like) will be the celebration of Mass at 8:20.

welcome to st bernadette catholic school

Our goal at St. Bernadette School is to nurture and encourage, in each child, academic, spiritual, emotional, and physical development; to guide them in their choices and appreciation of the cultural arts. Our students are active participants in their education.

from the school website

ministers at Mass at st bernadette

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
Saturday, Aug 13 4 PM	Marguerite Grimm	Eve Darfus, Isabelle Gentile, Dominic Neighbor	Terry Carpenter Tara Craaybeek Jim & Becky Kuhn	Shelia Taylor Mary Steyaert
Sunday, Aug 14 11 AM	Dennis Forquer	Brooke, Bryson & Zachary Vogel	Pat Dreyer David Shonk Jim & Rita Merk	Lee Guinan Becky Wickham
Monday, Aug 15 8:20 AM	David Shonk	Drew & Avee Solt	Pat Dreyer	Mary Guinan
Monday, Aug 15 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Gus & Olivia Spiegel	Brad Rider	Shelia Taylor
Wednesday Aug 17 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Jack Gentile Joey Mannella	Mary Guinan	Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, Aug 18 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Gunner Robertson, Sarah Woo	Lee Guinan	Mary Guinan
Friday, Aug 19 8:20 AM	Robin Sanders	Carley Matson, Mitchell Ortiz	Jim & Rita Merk	
Saturday, Aug 20 4 PM	Becky Kuhn	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Susan Garrett Denise McGuire Joyce Guenther	Kathy Kehnast Marguerite Grimm Brad Rider
Sunday, Aug 21 11 AM	Sandy Landefeld	Collin McCrady, Caroline Messerly, Diana Woo	Nancy Griffith Ben Peters Larry Sanford	Teresa Scarpitti Julie Whitehead Amy Woo

st vincent de paul: 5th sunday

Thank you from the members of the St Vincent de Paul Society for your fifth Sunday donations of \$978. Please continue your

generous giving. The St VdP Society operates entirely on voluntary donations and on income from their store (*viz*, not from subsidies by the Church or any government agency).

eucharistic adoration

St Bernadette Parish has **solemn exposition** of the Blessed Sacrament at 9 AM on **Wednesdays**. We have commitments for people to keep watch for the time from 9 AM until 1 PM. We could **extend exposition further into each Wednesday**. If you can commit to a regular presence for adoration for an hour from 1-2 or from 2-3, call Kathy at the parish office.

You can come to church to adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament **any day during the daylight hours**.

a new hymnal !

We are watching the delivery trucks for a new hymnal. Sometime in the next few weeks, **St Michael Hymnal**, fourth edition, will be arriving at St Bernadette.

The St Michael Hymnal is the one that St Mary Bremen acquired a few years ago. It has served that parish very well. It is blue like our old hymnal, but with a different repertoire. It takes into account the translation changes which were implemented five years ago this Fall. It contains a lot of Spanish and Latin texts which won't have much impact on us. But it also has the original wording of many classic hymns without change for political correctness.

This hymnal was developed by a parish in suburban Lafayette, Indiana. It is used at St Patrick Cathedral in New York among many other parishes. We hope it will be welcome at St Bernadette.

The cost of this new resource has been borne by generous parishioners who wish to remain anonymous. So you can't say thank you personally, but you can indeed pray for them and their intentions.

parish contributions

The **St Bernadette offertory collection** for Aug 7 came to \$8,487.

bremen st mary

summer square dance

St Mary Parish will have a square dance at **Schmelzer's Grove** for the family this evening, Aug 14, from 7-9 PM. Cost is \$3 @ person.

parish contributions

The **St Mary offertory collection** for Aug 7 came to \$1,040.

st vincent de paul

The St Vincent de Paul Society thanks you for your generosity in donating \$494 last Sunday. Their next meeting will be on Tuesday, Aug 16. If you would like to become a member or if you have questions, call Angi Skinner at (740) 438-0027.

news about the parish school of religion

Thank you all for supporting our Parish School of Religion (PSR) Program. The children are filled with the joy and love of Christ and we appreciate the opportunity to be your partner in teaching them more about their faith. Please watch for registration forms in the parish hall and return by Aug 29.

We are excited for this upcoming PSR year with Sarah Borah as a new voice for the weekly group faith discussion. Tyna is working to

improve communications to families and staff. We have an abundance of teachers and are happy to announce **this year's teachers:**

Pre-school, K & 1st Angi Skinner
 2nd grade Wyatt Borah
 3rd & 4th grade Shawna Kunkler & Cody Schmelzer
 6th & 7th grade Jerry & Tyna Schmelzer

The parish is grateful to **our teachers from last year** for their dedication and time:

Sarah Borah Shawna Kunkler Angi Skinner
 Cody Schmelzer Nikki Schmelzer Jerry & Tyna Schmelzer

Others who have **assisted our program**, whether for set up/clean up, special programming, or assisting with programming:

Wyatt Borah Cody Fyffe Abby Skinner
 Sydnee Rogers Tony Schmelzer Pam Redding
 Angel Springer Angie & Kent Kerns
 Dismas & Jodie Schmelzer

ministers at mass at bre men st mary

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sunday, Aug 14 8:30 AM	Linda Qualls	Caelie Bell Abby Skinner	Neil Boch, Pam Redding, Angi Skinner	James Noll Jr family	Joe Young
Monday, Aug 15, NOON	Linda Qualls				Jim Schmelzer
Tuesday, Aug 16 8:20 AM	Jim Schmelzer				Jim Schmelzer
Sunday, Aug 21 8:30 AM	Jeanne Schmelzer	Spencer Conrad Isaac Schmelzer	Damian & Debbie Maurice Schmelzer, Tyna Schmelzer-Fox	Schmelzer family	Damian Schmelzer

in the diocese of columbus

breakfast with the bishop

Catholic Social Services hosts **Breakfast with the Bishop** on Tuesday, Oct 4, at 7:30 AM at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel. Guest speaker is Robert Lupton, author of Toxic Charity. For registration and sponsorship information call (614) 221-5891 or visit www.colscs.org.

retrouvaille

If your marriage is troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring; if you have grown cold and distant; if you are separated, or are thinking about it, don't give up. **Retrouvaille** (a French word that means "rediscovery") is a **program to help heal and support** married couples experiencing difficulties, loneliness or pain. It is also for separated or divorced couples wanting to try again. For information call (614) 296-9704 or visit www.retrouvaille.org.

spousal prayer: a way to marital happiness

A Retreat for Married Couples happens on Saturday, Aug 27, from 9 AM to 4 PM at Immaculate Conception Church in Columbus. It features celebration of Mass and a reflection by Bishop Frederick Campbell and presentations by Deacon James Keating, author of **Spousal Prayer: A Way to Marital Happiness**. Cost is \$65 per couple, which includes a light breakfast, lunch and *Spousal Prayer* book. For information and to register, call (614) 241-2560.

help needed

The Sisters of Children of Mary just excavated 4 acres of land and they need help **clearing trees and building permanent pastures** for their cows at their convent in Newark. Any day is fine. Call (740) 323-1977. Find information at www.childrenofmary.net.

men's retreat at the shrine

The Catholic Laymen's Fall silent retreat happens at St Therese Retreat Center from 6 PM on Friday, Sept 9, through noon Mass on Sunday, Sept 11. In reflection sessions, **Fr Stephen Hayes OP** will help men to appreciate the value of the medieval crusades by developing his theme "**Taking up the Cross: Becoming Modern Crusaders for the New Jerusalem of Christ**." Cost is \$130. For information and registration contact Charles Kielkopf at (614) 268-0175 or kielkopf.1@osu.edu.

happily ever after... despite the rough spots

Join us for a Marriage Encounter weekend and learn ways to use your marriage's ups and downs to deepen your love for each other and for God. Why not **try a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend**? The next weekend in central Ohio is Nov 11-13. For information or to register, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit www.wmccolumbus.org.

courage

Do you have a same-sex attraction and desire to live a life of authentic friendship, rooted in chastity? You are not alone. **Courage** provides spiritual **support for Catholic men and women with a same-sex attraction, who strive to live chaste lives in accordance with the teachings of Christ and his Catholic Church**. Visit www.couragere.net.

living mercy in a jubilee year

mercy: beating heart of the gospel

Have you really learned these works of mercy? Have you been practicing them? Pope Francis writes that "**Mercy is the beating heart of the Gospel**" (*Misericordiae Vultus*). **We seek God's mercy** because we know he is **full of mercy** and is overflowing **generous with his mercy**. His only **requirement is that we, in turn, be mercy** saying "please" and gratefully saying "thank you". You know in what need of his mercy you are—even when the mercy given **merciful**. So what we need to do is go to God, humbly seeking his isn't exactly what you had in mind ("You don't always get what you want, but sometimes you get what you need!").

But **crucial to that thanksgiving is actually living mercy yourself**. The Church helps us along in that by teaching us the works of mercy. To live mercy, we must (re)discover both

the **spiritual works of mercy,**

- counsel the doubtful
- admonish sinners
- forgive offences
- instruct the ignorant
- comfort the afflicted
- bear patiently those who do us ill
- pray for the living and the dead,

and the **corporal works of mercy,**

- feed the hungry
- clothe the naked
- heal the sick
- give drink to the thirsty
- welcome the stranger
- visit the imprisoned
- bury the dead.

Learn all 14 by heart. Post them where you'll see them often, on your refrigerator or your mirror or someplace. Then make it your daily aim to live them. Examine your conscience about them. It's not always easy. But the works of mercy are a must for anyone who seeks to follow Christ. They will bring you joy ... and bring

you to eternal joy.

canonization of mother teresa on EWTN

Tune in to EWTN Global Catholic Network for extensive television coverage of the canonization of Mother Teresa **live from Rome on Sunday, Sept 4**. Go to ewtn.com for information and find EWTN on a channel near you by going to www.ewtn.com/channelfinder.

visit our lady of consolation

There will be a **Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation** in Carey on Wednesday, Oct 5. Bus departure time is 7:55 AM from the K of C Sunrise Center in Zanesville; return is at 6:45 PM. Cost is \$25 (lunch can be purchased at the cafeteria). Make checks payable and send reservations by Sept 7 to Margaret Kronenbitter, 2700 WayneRidge Rd., Zanesville, Ohio 43701. For information, call Mary Murphy at (740) 452-4454 or Margaret at (740) 453-7657.

educate their young to be faithful Catholic Christians, good citizens, and good husbands or wives, good fathers or mothers. The term of service is two years. Interested applicants should contact Fr Kessler during August.

fisher fall festival

The Fisher Fall Festival happens Friday, Sept 9, from 5-10 PM and Saturday, Sept 10, from 5-11 PM. Enjoy inflatables, children's games, adult games of skill, K of C Fish Fry, Bob's Backyard Barbeque, a beer garden, and other entertainment. Contact Eileen Gundelfinger at (740) 277-7063 with questions.

fisher catholic's book donation project

Please help Fisher Catholic students Emma Marcinko, Emma Burley and Madeline Wohrer with their Junior Service Project from Saturday, Aug 6 thru Saturday, Sept 3. By donating new or **gently used books** you are **helping underprivileged children grow** academically in their school and community. Drop off boxes are located in the main vestibule and school hallway at St Bernadette. Thank you for donating to a great cause.

It is true: she was assumed into heaven!

When in 1950 Pope Pius XII declared infallibly that Mary was **assumed body and soul into heaven**, he noted that this was in keeping with the ancient and universal teaching and belief of the Church that **Mary does indeed participate uniquely in the resurrection of the whole person into heaven**. He did not see it as necessary to choose between variant traditions about whether Mary actually died. He affirmed that she experienced what will happen to all the just at the end of the world. **The rest of us** die and are buried; our souls proceed to judgment and then to heaven (or its waiting room, purgatory) or hell; our bodies are placed reverently in the ground, in consecrated soil like Sacred Heart Cemetery, if possible. There they **await the resurrection of the dead**. At the Assumption Mary realized the same thing that will happen to us at the end of time.

"... after death the righteous will live for ever with the risen Christ and he will raise them up on the last day." (CCC 989)

Whatever we call it, on this great feast we celebrate our faith that one of us humans, the best of us, has already experienced what we all hope to experience, the fullness of joy in heaven.

Therefore my heart is glad, my soul rejoices; my body also dwells secure, for you will not abandon me to Sheol, nor let your faithful servant see the pit. (Ps 16:9-10; Acts 2:26-27)

in the deanery

confessions & weekday Mass nearby

These times sometimes change, though, so call ahead

parish	confessions	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Bremen St Mary	8 am Sunday		8:20 AM				
Lancaster St Bernadette	5:30 Thursday 3 PM Saturday; 8:30 AM on 1 st Sat	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	1 st Sat 9 AM
Lancaster St Mary	4 PM Saturday	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		
Lancaster St Mark	5:30 PM Saturday	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM	
Sugar Grove St Joseph	½ hour before Mass	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	
Circleville St Joseph	4 PM Saturday	9 AM	7 PM	9 AM		9 AM	10 AM
Logan St John	4 PM Saturday	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM

fisher catholic high school: advisory board

The pastor must appoint two new members to the FCHS advisory board to advise the administration of the school. A person does not need to be a Fisher parent or alumni. The main requirement is that an adult parishioner be a practicing Catholic member of St Bernadette Parish who is concerned about how Fisher can continue in support of the high school's purpose: to help parents

the Church's plan for reading God's word this week

Sat	Aug 13	Twentieth Sunday	Jeremiah	38:4-10	Hebrews	12:1-4	Psalms	40	Luke	12:49-53
Sun	Aug 14									
Mon	Aug 15	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Revelation	11:19-12:10	1 Corinthians	15:20-27	Psalms	45	Luke	1:39-56
Tues	Aug 16	St Stephen of Hungary	Ezekiel	28:1-10			Deut	32	Matthew	19:23-30
Weds	Aug 17		Ezekiel	34:1-11			Psalms	23	Matthew	20:1-16
Thurs	Aug 18		Ezekiel	36:23-28			Psalms	51	Matthew	22:1-14
Fri	Aug 19	St John Eudes	Ezekiel	37:1-14			Isaiah	107	Matthew	22:34-40
Sat	Aug 20	St Bernard	Ezekiel	43:1-7			Psalms	85	Matthew	23:1-12
Sun	Aug 21	Twenty-first Sunday	Isaiah	66:18-21	Hebrews	12:5-13	Psalms	117	Luke	13:22-30

Things a Pastor May Not Talk About Often Enough

There are issues a pastor has a moral duty to speak of with his parishioners. There are good and bad reasons he might prefer not to raise some of them. There are legitimate reasons that he can't be dealing with these issues every time he speaks from the pulpit. But if he says nothing he is a wimp. No, it is worse than that; he is failing in a serious moral obligation.

Bad reasons to avoid talking about these issues might include not wanting to hurt anyone's feelings. If I say this is a duty and you aren't fulfilling it, I might offend you. The person who doesn't want to hear it might say I am harping on it. This is a sure way for a preacher to become unpopular; it can bring protests and reduction of parish income. It can get rough: Some people respond by impugning the integrity of the preacher doing the teaching. I think that is one of the factors (but not the only one) motivating the publicity of the clerical scandals of recent years: Show that the individual priest is being a hypocrite about the things that the Church speaks of (usually not by that particular priest), and someone can say this just proves that "they're all hypocrites." But, of course, a sinful preacher—or a thousand of them—does not make a moral duty any less of a duty. Of the Pharisees Jesus said, "**Do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you ... but do not follow their example**" (Matthew 23:3). Pray for your priests, that they will preach and practice the truth, so that you can follow their teaching and their example.

Good excuses to avoid addressing such issues from the pulpit might include the fact that **the pulpit is for preaching the Word of God**; that means the readings and the liturgy of the day. Further, the problem that needs to be communicated to the congregation might be inappropriate for children. That's why we have adult education and a Catholic press. But the Catholic press (and its electronic offspring) is not always widely read by the people. And some elements of it don't do the job. That's why I have tried to turn the back page of the bulletin into a part of the Catholic press.

I don't intend to list all the tough issues today. In fact, my list will be sort of random, and without a lengthy explanation of why each point is so. I will just say some of the things that need to be said about a few such issues. I decided to write this column once when I had to address the bad news that a parish needed a substantial increase in offertory contributions. It had to be said that we are spending the money carefully, but that it is not coming in as it should. It had to be said that there is a **moral duty to contribute to the support of the Church**. I hated writing that, but doing so reminded me that I have to address other and more fundamental issues, whether it is comfortable or not. So here goes.

Catholics have a **seriously binding duty to go to Mass every Sunday**. There are times when we can't make it. But when we can, attendance is not optional. And there are times when it is not a very rewarding or entertaining experience. No problem. Mass can be a source of joy, but it was not designed to be enjoyable. We are there to worship God, on Sunday, and for this Sunday reason—the dying and rising of Jesus. Enjoyment is a variable, a perk. Liturgy is not a form of entertainment.

Reception of the sacrament of **Penance is an annual duty** for Catholics. Every year. We sin. The Church commands us to come to the sacrament. In fact, it is much more than a duty; it is a blessing. People who make the effort instead of excuses, sense the source of grace that the sacrament is. Sometimes the hardest part of going is just the embarrassment of having been away a long time and not being comfortable with the procedures. No problem. There are pamphlets to help you recall how it is done. And the priest also has a duty not to make the sacrament unduly burdensome. It is not breaking the seal of confession to tell you that a long time ago a man confessed to me that it had been 50 years since his last confession. He wasn't very good at the procedures. But it was beautiful moment. I suspect that more and more people go that long without confessing, know that they ought to, but die before they do. Don't wait so long. We are required to go every year. For a good reason.

If you are **not a Catholic**, if you are a Catholic **married outside** the law of the Catholic **Church**, or if you are otherwise **not in the state of grace**, don't go to Holy Communion. Talk to the priest about how you can **enter into full communion** with the Catholic Church or how you can **be restored to eligibility** to receive Holy Communion. This is a very serious matter. Unworthy reception of Holy Communion is a mortal sin.

So often the barrier to the reception of the sacraments is sexual activity. Those "old fashioned" teachings of the Catholic Church hold true today. Sexual attractions are wonderful. And acting on those attractions is good ... if it is done **chastely, in a marriage. Between a man and a woman**. In the case of a Catholic, **according to the law of the Catholic Church**. That means with real **generosity, only with one's own real spouse**, only **with an openness to the possibility of having new children**. Pre-marital, extra-marital, non-marital, contraceptive, homosexual, or solitary sexual activities are sinful, because they do damage to the integrity of marriage. They are not unforgivable—if we have a "firm purpose of amendment." They can be forgiven in the sacrament of Penance. In fact, they must be confessed before the sinner again approaches Holy Communion.

Catholics have a **serious moral duty to educate their young in the Faith**. That doesn't just happen. We have **schools for that purpose**. I oversee hundreds of thousands of dollars in payment for these schools. The Church has a serious commitment to provide a comprehensive education for the young because it is vital to being a Catholic. For **families who are unable to send their children to Catholic schools**, we have a program of religious education for elementary school children. And we are trying to fortify and/or reconstitute a program for high school students. **Attendance is not optional**. It is a duty, and it must not be left to the whims of children or the convenience of parents. It cannot morally be put in second place to any other youth programs.

If a priest advised you or an acquaintance **in a different way on any of these matters**, you may have misunderstood. Or he may have spoken independent of the Church so as not to offend anyone. No priest has the right to do that. I know that sort of thing has happened. I am sorry. It won't happen here.

There is more to be said about each of these issues. And there are more such uncomfortable issues. **I would be happy to talk about them with you personally**. Please don't give yourself a free pass to ignore these points based on hearsay. And please don't write off what I have written as the words of a priest who is obsessing on money and sex, areas where he is not an expert. This is the **truth the Catholic Church teaches**. It is the truth that will set us free.

—Father Kessler

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