

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 16, 2015



## The Coronation of the Virgin

remembered this Saturday, August 22  
painted (1625) in oil on canvas by Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640) and members of his workshop

Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels

## Saint Bernadette Parish

1343 Wheeling Road NE  
LANCASTER, OH 43130-8701  
(740) 654 • 1893  
stbernaparish @ yahoo . com

## Saint Mary Parish

602 Marietta Street  
BREMEN, OHIO 43107  
(740) 569 • 7929  
bremenstmary1 @ frontier . com

## Our Parishes

**FATHER THOMAS KESSLER** pastor  
(614) 634-0499  
*wmthomaskessler @ icloud*

### AT ST BERNADETTE

**MARK SCARPITTI** deacon  
468-1042  
*dcm.mark @ frontier . com*

**JEFF CARPENTER** deacon  
681-9918  
*carpenter.277 @ osu . ed*

**ANN ESSMAN** pastoral minister  
653-9347  
*aessman001 @ att . net*

**STEVE HUBER** facilities coordinator  
654-3137  
*shuber57 @ yahoo . com*

**LIZ LATORRE** liturgical music  
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-2 PM, Mon-Thurs; 9 AM to noon, Fri.  
1343 Wheeling Road NE, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701  
(740) 654-1893

### AT ST MARY BREMEN

**BEN FACTOR** liturgical music  
*b\_factor @ lancaster . k12 . oh . us*

**JIM SCHMELZER** maintenance  
committee chair

**TYNA FOX-SCHMELZER** religious education  
(614) 371-7702  
*schmelifox @ earthlink . net*  
coordinator

*The St Mary Parish office* is at the church vestibule.  
Hours are 9 am-noon, Tues; 2-4, Mon & Thurs.  
602 Marietta St, Bremen, OH 43107.  
(740) 569-7929

### AT BOTH PARISHES

**DARLENE YENRICK** business manager  
654-1893  
*businessmstbparish @ yahoo . com*

**KATHY KEHNAST** pastoral coordinator  
654-1893  
*stbernaparish @ yahoo . com*

**ANGIE & KENT KERNS** religious education  
654-2588  
*kwkerns @ gmail . com*

### AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

**PAM ELTRINGHAM** school principal  
654-3137  
*peltring @ cdeducation . org*

**BARB HUBER** school secretary  
654-3137  
*bhuber @ cdeducation . org*

*Saint Bernadette School* is located at  
1325 Wheeling Road, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701  
[www.stbernadetteschool.com](http://www.stbernadetteschool.com)  
*stbernan @ cdeducation . org.*

## The 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 16. Try to 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 together 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 Christian. If you don't attend Sunday Mass regularly, there is something you can do about it: Start coming to Sunday Mass.

### PENANCE

The priest is available for Penance

- at St Bernadette Sat afternoons at 3 and Thurs evenings at 5:30, 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. We are beginning to provide Penance opportunities for parochial school children several more 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.

### THE ANOINTING 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 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.

The Church wishes to support couples through the years of their married life. For this reason our diocese offers programs to enhance married life. The point of such programs is more than simply to put stress on the duties of marriage. To learn more about these programs, watch the weekly bulletin.

### CONFESSIONS & WEEKDAY MASS IN THE DEANERY

**But call ahead to be sure!**

confessions	the parish	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
8 AM	<b>Bremen</b>		8:20				
Sunday	<b>St Mary</b>		AM				
5:30 Thurs & 3 Sat	<b>Lancaster St Bernadette</b>	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	
4-5 Saturday	<b>St Mary</b>	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		
5:30 Saturday	<b>St Mark</b>	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM	
½ hour before Mass	<b>Sugar Grove St Joseph</b>	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	
4-4:45 Saturday	<b>Logan St John</b>	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM

## in our parishes

### RCIA — PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!

The opening session for RCIA in our two parishes meets **Thursday, Aug 20, at 7 PM in the Mary Good Center** at St Bernadette. So now is the time! Who are you going to invite at least to think about the Catholic Christian Faith? Your invitation is what Jesus was talking about when he said, in the final words of the Gospel according to Matthew:

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.

Pray that you will have the grace and the courage to welcome and invite someone to the sacramental life!

- if you are *thinking about becoming a Catholic Christian* yourself;
- if you are a Catholic who would like to share your treasured Faith as a sponsor;
- if you are *a Catholic who needs to get back to basics* and learn your Faith better;
- if you have *a friend or loved one* in one of those situations; or
- if you *have other questions* regarding the RCIA, come to this *first session* for the new year.

To learn more or to let us know you are coming, *call Kathy Kehnast* at 654-1893.

### BUT WHAT IS THE RCIA?

**RCIA** is the common name of the “*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.” It was introduced after the Second Vatican Council and has four stages:

1. An *inquiry* stage when interested inquirers may come along and ask questions about our faith.
2. A stage of *learning and experiencing* the Catholic way of life and worship.
3. A stage of personal *searching and reflection* to prepare for full reception into Catholic life and worship.
4. A stage of *learning to live* out one’s newly acknowledged faith within the community.

The RCIA is a journey of faith. When one stage has been completed a decision must be made about the next. In all the decision-making, the *freedom* of the individual is of the greatest importance. At every stage, and in every decision, the individual has the support and the prayer of the parish community. For to embrace the Catholic Faith also means to *become part of this faith community* which we call our parish. If you know someone one you care about who *might be interested*, invite her or him to consider the RCIA. If you would like to *help people who would like to be able to receive Holy Communion*, if you are *thinking about becoming a Catholic Christian yourself*, or if you *have questions* regarding the process, call Kathy at 654-1893.

### PRAY IN THE MORNING

We pray Morning Prayer on weekdays before morning Mass in *both parishes*. It is the Church’s liturgy to greet the new day. It is scriptural (lots of psalm-praying) and liturgical, and it lasts about 12 minutes.

### WE NEED A BOOKKEEPER

St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary Parishes are seeking a *part-time*, full charge bookkeeper to perform such accounting procedures as cash receipts, accounts payable, payroll, budget preparation, account reconciliation, financial reports, and data entry. This position requires both an understanding of basic accounting procedures and attention to the accuracy of accounting / financial reporting information.

A candidate should have either an associate’s degree or higher in accounting / finance and 2+ years accounts payable & payroll experience. If a candidate has no degree, she/he must have 5-8 years accounts payable & payroll experience, with completion of bookkeeping and accounting courses a very big plus. Computer skills should include a strong working knowledge of Word, Excel and Quickbooks.

*Interested candidates* should e-mail resume, salary requirements and references to the business office at *businessmstbparish @ yahoo . com*.

## at St Bernadette

### TWINNING PARISHES

Parishioners are invited to attend a meeting on Tuesday, Aug 18, at 7 PM in the Mary Good Center, to discuss the possibility of “twinning” St Bernadette Parish with a parish in the Dominican Republic, as a mission outreach.

### OKTOBERFEST !

St Bernadette Parish will enjoy *the first annual Oktoberfest* on the first weekend of October. This festival will bring together parishioners, former parishioners, friends, and neighbors to enjoy each other’s company, share memories, and showcase St Bernadette grounds at the beginning of the beautiful season of Fall colors. All this over some good beer and dinner raising funds *to help our parish cover the costs of sending St Bernadette parishioner students to Fisher Catholic High, St Mary Middle, and St Bernadette Elementary School*. Put it on your calendar.

### ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

#### AN AFFORDABLE CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Don’t delay. School starts this Wednesday!

The goal of a Catholic education at St. Bernadette School is *to prepare our students to take their place in society as disciples of Christ called to live the Gospel through their daily interactions* with family, friends, and neighbors. Our school educates the whole child through challenging academics and activities with opportunities for service that help our students carry out our calling to serve and provide both fun and personal development for our students.

Our school has *highly qualified teachers*,

- licensed by the Ohio Department of Education,
- certified in religion by the diocese,
- with the required background checks,
- trained in school safety and abuse prevention,
- and participating in ongoing professional development.

Please take advantage of *accessible Catholic education*. Tuition assistance is available to qualifying families. The EdChoice Expansion is available to students new to our building in grades K and 1. St. Bernadette School is also a provider of the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program, and the Autism Scholarship Program.

**GIVE AT MASS EVERY WEEK  
(OR EVERY MONTH)**

In *St Bernadette Parish* you could use *Electronic Funds Transfer* as a way to stabilize the level of your financial support. This helps the parish's cash flow by preventing unintended seasonal ebb and flow from your commitment to support the parish. Contact Darlene Yenrick in the parish office for details.

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

The offertory collection for Aug 9 at *St Bernadette* was \$ 6,331.

**at Bremen St Mary****SAINT MARY HOMECOMING OX ROAST**

Plan ahead: Sunday, Sept 27, at 1 PM — and the whole rest of the afternoon — St Mary Parish in Bremen will have a Homecoming Ox Roast at Schmelzer's Grove, with food, entertainment, and fun for your family. Details to follow. Including some interesting news about a Dixieland Band!

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

The offertory collection for Aug 9 at *Bremen St Mary* was \$4,036.

**in the deanery****PDHC FUNDRAISING BBQ**

This year's Pregnancy Decision Health Center *Celebrating Life Fundraising Banquet* happens on Wednesday, Sept 23, *with a BBQ banquet and program* at Little Brook Meadows.

Speaker will be *Pam Tebow*, mother of quarterback Tim Tebow. You know: He's the fellow who, instead of doing one of those annoying victory dances after a big play, falls to his knee to thank God — and takes a lot of flack for it. His Mom knows a thing or two about how he learned to hold and express the Christian Faith and how that has made millions of fans take notice.

Barn doors open at 6:30, BBQ banquet and program are from 7-9 PM. It will be a "casual blue jean evening" (bowtie optional). Seating is limited, so register early at [supportpdhc.org](http://supportpdhc.org) or call (614) 888-8774 x 6117.

**HAVE YOU RECENTLY BECOME  
ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED ?**

The Fairfield-Hocking-Pickaway Deanery is hosting a Pre-Cana Session on Friday and Saturday, Sept 11-12, at St Bernadette. Contact Maggie Bennett at (740) 243-1552.

**in the diocese****MOMS MENTORING MOMS: FILLING THE GAP !**

Mentor her to motherhood and fill the *GAP*. The Guardian Angel Program, GAP, is the Pregnancy Decision Health Centers' new mentoring program. GAP is looking for *compassionate mentors* (Angels) who are willing to be matched *with a single woman who is facing an unexpected pregnancy*. The goal of GAP is to provide *emotional support, spiritual guidance, and positive role modeling* as she transitions into motherhood. As an Angel, you will walk beside

her and *fill the gap in her life* so she doesn't have to feel alone.

If you can't be an Angel, but still have the desire to support and love these single mothers, the Choir of Angels is for you. You and a few others will make up the Choir and assist the Angel by *providing diapers, home cooked meals, letters of support, etc. to the pregnant mom*. Contact Monica Flynn at (614) 888-8774 x 6101 or [MonicaF@pdhc.org](mailto:MonicaF@pdhc.org).

**CATHOLIC FAMILIES AT CREW STADIUM**

Join the Catholic Family Night with the Columbus Crew on Saturday, Sept 20, at 7:30 PM. A portion of ticket proceeds supports the diocesan Recreation Association's *Sportsmanship Scholarship*. Upper sideline seats are available for \$22; tickets are subject to availability. Deadline to order is Wednesday, Aug 12. For information, contact Katherine Wren at (614) 447-4232 or [kwren@columbuscrew.com](mailto:kwren@columbuscrew.com).

**YOUR FAITH AND YOUR HEALTH CARE PROFESSION**

Consider joining *the John Paul II Guild* of the *Catholic Medical Association*. The guild helps physicians, healthcare workers, medical students, and clergy *grow in the spirit of Christ in their personal and professional lives* so they can bring his Spirit to the science and art of medicine. Guilds work at the national and local level to provide services that benefit the entire Catholic healthcare community and the culture around us. *The Guild* sponsors

- an annual *White Mass* on the feast of St Luke,
- a *retreat* for healthcare workers in the Spring, and
- the *Hippocratic Oath Dinner*.

They meet 6-8 PM the first Sunday of each month. To learn more, *contact Dr. Michael Parker* through [jp2cmacolumbus@gmail.com](mailto:jp2cmacolumbus@gmail.com) or follow them on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/#!/catholicmedcolumbus>). For information about the National Catholic Medical Association, go to [www.cathmed.org](http://www.cathmed.org).

**KEEPING COLLEGE STUDENTS  
CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH**

Do you have a son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter, who is graduating from high school and heading off to college this year? Did you realize that 80% of *students stop practicing their faith at some point in college*? However, college students active in campus ministry are more likely to continue their faith practice, and when they graduate they are more likely to attend Mass, volunteer in parishes, and consider a religious vocation. Unfortunately, only 15% of students look for a campus ministry on their own. Have an impact on your own child's future faith life by encouraging him or her to log onto *Newman Connection* to *find the campus ministry available at college*. You can also find facts on Catholic campus ministries, Mass times, and scheduled activities. Take the time now to go to: [www.NewmanConnection.com](http://www.NewmanConnection.com).

**MY HOUSE COLUMBUS**

*Pornography is a plague*. 56% of divorce cases involve one party having an obsessive interest in pornographic websites. *What can we do* about this plague? It's a sin and sinners can go to Confession. And there is My House of Columbus. Visit [MyHouseColumbus.org](http://MyHouseColumbus.org) or call them on their confidential hotline at (888) 989-9886.

**99% EFFECTIVE. 100% NATURAL**

Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods are effective *for postponing or achieving pregnancy* and are completely natural — no pills, patches or devices. Learn more; attend a free first session of a diocesan NFP Class Series at a location near you. Register online at

familylife . colsdioc . org or contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560 or *familylife @ colsdioc . org*.

### HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is hosting a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Nov 9-18. The pilgrimage includes daily Mass at such holy sights as Jerusalem, Nazareth, Galilee, Bethlehem, and the Dead Sea. With 3 meals daily and air from Columbus, it will cost \$3,594. Call Cathie or Mike Milano at (800) 773-2660.

### A MASS FOR HEALING

The Columbus Catholic Charismatic Community will gather for the celebration of Mass at Christ the King Church on Sunday, Sept 20, at 4 PM. They will pray the rosary at 2:30 PM and celebrate the Anointing of the Sick during Mass for Catholics who are seriously ill. Sponsorship of this event is by the Columbus Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center. Call the CCRC office at (614) 500-8115.

### A CUM CHRISTO WEEKEND

*Renew your commitment to Christ* by making a *Cum Christo* weekend, a 3-day workshop in Christian leadership and living. A men's weekends is scheduled for Oct 1-4; a women's weekend will be Nov 12-15. Contact Susan Eyerman at (740) 503-1939 or *susaneye @ columbus . rr . com* or visit *www . cumchristo . org*.

### MEN'S SILENT RETREAT

The Catholic Laymen Fall Silent Retreat happens at St Therese Retreat Center from 6 PM on Friday, Sept 11, through noon Mass, Sunday, Sept 13. Fr. Joseph Klee, a pro-life activist and outspoken supporter of traditional Catholic sexual morality, will direct the retreat on the theme: *St Joseph, Model of Manly Virtue*. Cost is \$130. Contact Charles Kielkopf at (614) 268-0175 or *kielkopf . 1 @ osu . edu*, or register and pay at *http :// www . theholinessproject . org*.

### A MARRIAGE CHECK-UP

Just 44 hours away from jobs, kids, and chores, then 20 minutes a day: take a Marriage Encounter weekend. For information contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit *www . wwmecolumbus . org*.

### A YEAR FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2015 *a Year of Consecrated Life*. The slogan for the year's observance is "*Wake up the World!*" Let's wake up and pray for religious vocations.

## pray with the Church this week

### PRAY AT MASS ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> 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.

### PRAY WITH THE POPE DURING AUGUST

That volunteers may give themselves generously

to the service of the needy.

That setting aside our very selves we may learn to be neighbors to those who find themselves on the margins of human life and society.

### PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

"Pray without ceasing."—*1 Thessalonians 5:17*

God our Father, we give you thanks for the gift of marriage: the bond of life and love, and the font of the family.

The love of husband and wife enriches your Church with children, fills the world with a multitude of spiritual fruitfulness and service, and is the sign of the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, for his Church.

The grace of Jesus flowed forth at Cana at the request of the Blessed Mother.

May your Son, through the intercession of Mary, pour out upon us a new measure of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as we join with all people of good will to promote and protect the unique beauty of marriage.

May your Holy Spirit enlighten our society to treasure the heroic love of husband and wife, and guide our leaders to sustain and protect the singular place of mothers and fathers in the lives of their children.

Father, we ask that our prayers be joined to those of the Virgin Mary, that your Word may transform our service so as to safeguard the incomparable splendor of marriage. We ask all these things through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us

### PRAY THE ANGELUS

*This is a prayer prayed by the faithful morning, noon and night (at 6 am, noon and 6 pm, but adjustment are perfectly acceptable!). It is great for praying together at family meals, in a call and response format as shown below. Kids can memorize it. If parents teach them.*

The Angel of the LORD declared unto Mary,  
And she conceived of the Holy Ghost.

Hail Mary ...

Behold the handmaid of the LORD.

Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary ...

And the Word was made flesh.

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary ...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

That we might be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray,

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, LORD,

Thy grace into our hearts;

that, we, to whom

the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son,

was made known by the message of an angel,

may by His Passion and Cross

be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

**PRAY IN CHURCH**

You can come to church to adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, *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.

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS TO THE CONSECRATED LIFE**

O God, throughout the ages  
 you have called women and men  
 to pursue lives of perfect charity

through the evangelical counsels  
 of poverty, chastity, and obedience.  
 During this Year of Consecrated Life,  
 we give you thanks for these  
 courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration.  
 Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us  
 to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you.  
 Continue to enrich your Church  
 by calling forth sons and daughters who,  
 having found the pearl of great price,  
 treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things.

**READINGS, FEASTS, AND MEMORIALS FOR THIS WEEK**

<b>Saturday, Aug 15</b>							
<b>Sunday, Aug 16</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Proverbs 9:1-6	Ephesians 5:15-20	Psalm 34	John 6:51-58		
Monday, Aug 17		Judges 2:11-19		Psalm 106	Matthew 19:16-22		
Tuesday, Aug 18		Judges 6:11-24		Psalm 85	Matthew 19:23-30		
Wednesday, Aug 19	St John Eudes	Judges 9:6-15		Psalm 21	Matthew 20:1-16		
Thursday, Aug 20	St Bernard	Judges 11:29-39		Psalm 40	Matthew 22:1-14		
Friday, Aug 21	St Pius X	Ruth 1:1-22		Psalm 146	Matthew 22:34-40		
Saturday, Aug 22	Queenship of Mary	Ruth 2:1-4:17		Psalm 128	Matthew 23:1-12		
<b>Sunday, Aug 23</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Joshua 24:1-18	Ephesians 5:21-32	Psalm 34	John 6:60-69		

**MASS INTENTIONS AND MINISTERS THIS WEEK AT ST MARY**

	intention	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers	gifts	sacristan / usher
<b>Sunday, Aug 16</b> 8:30 AM	<i>for the people</i>	Susan Foltz	Caelie Bell Abbie Skinner	Susan Foltz, Damian & Debbie Schmelzer	John Schoenlaub family	Damian Schmelzer
<b>Tuesday, Aug 18</b> 8:20 AM	<i>Gary Boch</i>	Jim Schmelzer				Jim Schmelzer
<b>Sunday, Aug 23</b> 8:30 AM	<i>for the people</i>	Paul Kunkler	Sydnee Rogers Isaac Schmelzer	Irene Kunkler, Jim Schmelzer, Tyna Fox Schmelzer	Paul Kunkler family	Jim Schmelzer

**MASS INTENTIONS AND MINISTERS THIS WEEK AT ST BERNADETTE**

	intention	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers
<b>Saturday, Aug 15</b> 4 PM	<i>Francis Schmelzer</i>	Marguerite Grimm	Abby, Mary, & Sam Frazier	Rosalie DeFillippo, Joyce Guenther, Kathy Kehnast, Brad Rider, Craig Shaw, Mary Steyaert
<b>Sunday, Aug 16</b> 11 AM	<i>for the people</i>	Robert Christy	Collin McCrady, Caroline Messerly, Makaila Moses	Nancy Griffith, Lee Guinan, Ben Peters, Herb Reeder, Teresa Scarpitti, Mary Jane Vajen
Monday, Aug 17 8:20 AM	<i>Helen Henry</i>	David Shonk	Kendall Cox Ava Ewing	Pat Dreyer, Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, Aug 19 8:20 AM	<i>Paula Marque</i>	Dick Schorr	Emma McCrady Addy Myers	Mary Guinan, Kathy Kehnast
Thursday, Aug 20 6 PM	<i>Wilford &amp; Loretta Beiter</i>	Herb Reeder	Emeline Neighbor Avee Solt	Paul Lonergan, Darlene Yarmesch
Friday, Aug 21 8:20 AM	<i>Donna Abbott</i>	Robin Sanders	Cady Tipple Kendall Cox	Jim & Rita Merk
<b>Saturday, Aug 22</b> 4 PM	<i>deceased of Harris &amp; Tipple families</i>	Martha Rose	Ashlyn & Brennan Quaintance, Mitch Santino	Susan Garrett, Marguerite Grimm, Sandy Landefeld, Shelia Taylor, Kathy Wagner, Darlene Yarmesch
<b>Sunday, Aug 23</b> 11 AM	<i>for the people</i>	Tara Craaybeek	Clara & Susan Craaybeek, Eve Darfus	Patricia Dreyer, Jim & Rita Merk, David Shonk, Julia Whitehead, Rebecca Wickham

# Making Our Worship Beautiful

I once heard a person compliment a priest after Mass by saying “That was a beautiful Mass.” The priest answered, “They all are; the Lord made them that way.” I forget if he said thank you before he got crusty. He had a point: it is the awesome mystery of the Holy Eucharist that is what is beautiful about the Mass. Nothing we do will ever improve on it, and nothing we do will ever rob it of its beauty. Yet that is no reason we shouldn’t do everything in our power to do things beautifully at Mass and at all of our sacred worship. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta had a saying about what she was trying to accomplish in her life. Mother said she wanted to do “something beautiful for God.”

We should try to make our lives something beautiful for God. And no aspect of our lives is more deserving of this effort than our worship. There has been some discussion in the past of how we can make our worship beautiful in terms of the liturgy that the people see and hear and smell. But it is important that each parishioner, each worshipper, approach all of the liturgies of the year with a desire to be something more than a consumer. Each of us must make an effort to make our worship beautiful.

Americans pride ourselves that we “don’t stand on ceremony.” There is a problem with that slogan: We need ceremony, we need for it to be beautiful, and we need to remember that we all together make it happen. And that takes an effort. Sometimes it goes against the grain. But it can happen. It should happen.

I want to suggest six ways we can make our worship better, and I ask you to think about these and to give them a try. They can’t improve the Mass, but they could eliminate some distractions, get us more involved in the reality of the holy mysteries, and, perhaps, make a small gift of “something beautiful for God.”

**MAKE AN EFFORT TO PRAY ALOUD.** And it does take an effort. Few things are as disheartening for prayer as a seeing someone who seems to be there under duress. (And with a church that has people facing the altar from different directions, your body language and facial expression are more visible than you may think.) Use the book or the card; move your lips; sing softly if your pitch is bad or your lungs are weak. But join in.

**MAKE AN EFFORT TO PRAY TOGETHER.** Whether it is praying the rosary or the stations of the Cross or the psalms of our weekday mornings together, we most all have a tendency to think my pace is the right pace. Someone else is a slow poke or a speed demon; I have the right pace. Deciding to follow the pace of the other person, pausing at the end of each line of the prayer or at punctuation marks, but not for too long, can be a burden. But it can sometimes make a harmony of the praying together which is less distracting and less competitive.

**TRY TO WALK IN PROCESSION TOGETHER.** Most of us don’t do a lot of processing. We might have marched in a band or in military drill at some stage, but it isn’t a daily activity for most of us. So walking in a procession with palms on Palm Sunday or accompanying the Lord at the conclusion of Mass on Holy Thursday or Corpus Christi, or with candles at the Saturday Easter Vigil, is an art we don’t get much practice in. It is meant to be a slow, stately act of prayer. So we don’t just go into church and go sit down. There is something more when there is a procession: We all walk together, slowly, bunched up together (but not socializing), with reverent and, if we can muster it, with un-self-conscious but prayerful dignity. We can muster it! We go up the main aisle to the foot of the altar, then turn to the side aisles, about the way we would go to communion, without pausing to visit anyone. We go to our seats from off the side aisle. Just this once we can ignore whether we are headed to the seat we usually sit in. We’re at prayer, in procession, together.

**LEARN HOW TO WELCOME BABIES — AND HOW TO IGNORE THEM.** It is so good that we have babies in our parish. We need to be grateful to the parents who “let the little children come” to the Lord. But they can become a distraction—a delightful distraction, but a distraction, all the same. Sometimes a baby with healthy lungs can let out a blast. Sometimes a toddler can let out a tantrum. Parents and the worshipers need self-discipline. The parents shouldn’t be too embarrassed by fussiness from their baby; but they should take the baby into the hall or out into the vestibule if the noise gets really loud. And all of us, family and bystanders, should avoid oohing and aahing over the cuteness of a quiet baby. We are there to pray, and even if our mind is wandering, we should not distract those around us. Besides, even a small baby must be set the example from us older folks that something more important than cuteness is going on. It is the Lord.

**TREAT OUR CHURCH AS A PLACE OF AWE-FILLED SILENCE, EVEN AFTER MASS.** Thank God we want to socialize with our fellow worshippers. And thank God he will let us pray anywhere and any time. But this place is the special place for prayer, and Sunday morning it’s the time dedicated to praying. For many people, especially the young, it is the first time and the first place they know for prayer. Please let that prayer happen. I say this as one of the worst offenders of my own suggestion. We don’t need a lot of shushing, no. What we need is a lot of reverence and openness to prayer. And helping remove the distraction from people who might be ready to kneel in silent, thankful adoration.

**GET DRESSED UP FOR MASS.** Many Americans, especially in the Midwest, are a casual people. That’s part of our charm. We may have a down-home, laid-back approach to God. Many of us don’t own the “Sunday-go-to-meeting” clothes that mark church attendance in some communities — that used to mark it in all communities. But when we come to Mass we should clean up, dress with modesty and dignity. We should try to do something special about the way we look, the way we are fixed up for Mass. Of course, no one should ever be excluded or made to feel inferior. We should all be glad that the other folks are here. But Sunday Mass is a special occasion. We should do what we can to express its specialness for ourselves and each other.

— Father Kessler

# Ads