



Landscape with Transfiguration of Christ

The scene of today's holy Gospel reading.
painted in oil on canvas by Francesco Zuccarelli (1702-1788)

Kunsthau Lempertz

The 2nd Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2016

Saint Bernadette Parish

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

Saint Mary Parish

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

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 Kehnst will be necessary). *Sessions are held quarterly* for both parishes. The next session will be Mar 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 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*. A practicing Catholic is one who is not married out of the Church and attends Sunday Mass each week. If you or they don't attend Sunday Mass regularly, there is something that can do about it: Start coming to Sunday Mass.

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*. We provide Penance *opportunities for St Bernadette 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*.

ANOINTING AND CARE OF THE SICK

The Sick receive 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 the sick for "health of mind and body."

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. To learn about these programs, watch the weekly bulletin.

Our Parishes

FATHER THOMAS KESSLER pastor
(614) 634-0499 wthomaskessler@icloud.com

AT ST BERNADETTE PARISH

MARK SCARPITTI 438-3970
deacon dcn.mark@frontier.com
JEFF CARPENTER 681-9918
deacon carpenter.277@osu.edu
ANN ESSMAN 653-9347
pastoral minister aessman001@att.net
STEVE HUBER 654-3137
facilities coordinator shuber57@yahoo.com
LIZ LATORRE 243-1872
liturgical music 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 (740) 654-1893

AT BREMEN ST MARY PARISH

BEN FACTOR
liturgical music b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us
JIM SCHMELZER
maintenance chair
TYNA FOX-SCHMELZER (614) 371-7702
religious education coordinator schmelifox@earthlink.net

The St Mary Parish office is at the church vestibule.

Hours are 9-11 AM, Tu.
602 Marietta St, Bremen, OH 43107 (740) 569-7929

AT BOTH PARISHES

NIKKI SCHMELZER 654-1893
bookkeeper businessmstbparish@yahoo.com
KATHY KEHNAST 654-1893
pastoral coordinator stbernparish@yahoo.com
ANGIE & KENT KERNS 654-2588
religious education kwkerns@gmail.com
JULIE & CHASE STALFORD 808-7294
youth ministry maristellaspirt@gmail.com

AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

PAM ELTRINGHAM
principal peltring@cducation.org
BARB HUBER
secretary bhuber@cducation.org

Saint Bernadette School is located at
1325 Wheeling Rd, 654-3137
Lancaster, OH 43130-8701 www.stbernadetteschool.com
stberlan@cducation.org.

let us pray

PRAY WITH THE POPE DURING FEBRUARY

His universal intention concerns the care of creation:

That we may take good care of creation—a gift freely given—cultivating and protecting it for future generations.

His prayer for evangelization this month is especially for the mission of the Church in Asia:

That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia.

COLLECT FOR THE 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory.

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.

the holy season of Lent

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

On all the Fridays of Lent at 7 pm St Mary and St Bernadette parishes (and many other parishes) will both pray the Way of the Cross, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. You could join in! And bring your kids!

LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE

During Lent, Catholics in the United States

- **abstain from meat** on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. Catholics 14 and older are bound by the law of abstinence;
- **fast** on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday — which means eating only one full meal on those days. One or two smaller meals may be taken on those days, but may not total one full meal. And no eating between meals. All adults are bound by the law of fast until they are 59.

Pastors and parents are to see to it that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated in an authentic sense of penance.

LUKE IN LENT:

ANGELS AND OLD MEN INTRODUCE JESUS by learning what the Gospel of Luke has to tell us

Father Kessler is teaching a Lenten series on the Gospel of Saint Luke on the Fridays of Lent (not including Good Friday which is not exactly part of Lent). Sessions will be held in the Mary Good Center on Feb 26, and March 4, 11, and 18. They will begin at 9:15 AM (just after Mass) and will last until 10:45. This week we will learn what Luke has to say about how Jesus is introduced to us by angels, women, and song.

Why St Luke? Because this is the year for reading his Gospel at Sunday Mass. And because his gospel is a surprisingly beautiful way to get to know the Lord Jesus better.

RICE BOWL

This Year of Mercy is a time for Catholics to deepen our faith in Christ. CRS Rice Bowl highlights the beauty of the Lenten trio: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Catholic Relief Services is present in 100 countries worldwide, serving the poorest among us through CRS. If you get the free CRS Rice Bowl app, you can read daily reflections, measure your Lenten sacrifices, and get delicious recipes from around the world. Available at www.crsricebowl.org.

LENTEN HOLY HOURS AT LANCASTER ST MARY

St. Mary of the Assumption will have Sunday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the Sundays of Lent beginning at 4 PM. Vespers will be sung at 4:45 ending with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

From Feb 10 to March 20, hundreds of communities in all 50 states are joining in the 40 Days for Life campaign. Faithful believers are **praying that this effort will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in America**. This **peaceful prayer vigil** will take place at an abortion facility. Participants are

asked to sign a statement of peace. For details contact Greater Columbus Right to Life at (614) 445-8508 or visit www.40daysforlife.com/columbus.

PRAYER IN THE MORNING

All through the year we gather for prayer on the weekday mornings at 8 AM in whichever parish is having 8:20 Mass. This is the Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of Hours to greet the new day. It is called Lauds because a major point of it is to sing the praises of God. Mass will follow a few minutes after Lauds. The heart of the prayer is the recitation of the selected psalms together. If you want to have Lenten renewal in your prayer life, please join us. It is the Church's ancient scriptural way of prayer. Give it a try.

K OF C FISH FRY

Lancaster **Knights of Columbus** fry fish on the Fridays of Lent (Feb 26, and Mar 4, 11, and 18). After the fish, come to St Bernadette or Bremen St Mary for the Stations of the Cross. Cost (for the fish, not the Stations) for adults is \$8 and for children is \$6. The K of C hall is at 343 East Walnut Street.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES IN THE FAIRFIELD / HOCKING / PICKAWAY DEANERY

Logan	St John	Monday,	Feb 22,	7 PM
Lancaster	St Mark	Tuesday,	Mar 1,	7 PM
Circleville	St Joseph	Sunday,	Mar 6,	4 PM
Lancaster	St Mary	Thursday,	Mar 10,	7 PM
Lancaster	St Bernadette	Sunday,	Mar 13,	3 PM
Sugar Grove	St Joseph	Tuesday,	Mar 15,	7 PM
Fisher Catholic High School		Wednesday,	Mar 16,	1:30 PM
Bremen	St Mary	Sunday,	Mar 20,	3 PM

in our parishes

THE CATHOLIC TIMES

For a Catholic perspective, the *Catholic Times* weekly newspaper features insightful and in-formative news from around our diocese, our country, and the world. Sign up today (or some-time in February) for, or continue receiving the Catholic Times for another year, by placing **your Catholic Times envelope with a minimum donation of only \$17 (parish rate) into the regular Mass collection**. This donation helps the parish to provide the *Catholic Times* to you and many of our parishioners. Checks should be made payable to St Bernadette or St Mary. If you are on "electronic" donation, you can still receive the *Catholic Times* – simply place your donation in an envelope marked "*Catholic Times*" and your name and drop it into the Sunday collection basket during February. Bishop Campbell encourages every Catholic household to receive the *Catholic Times*. Come enjoy "**A journal of Catholic life in Ohio.**" Sign up today.

BECOMING CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS

Richard "Buster" Skinner was enrolled by Bishop Campbell as a catechumen last Sunday at St Paul Church in Westerville. That means he, along with many other adults from around our diocese, has begun the last stage of the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). At the Easter Vigil he will receive all three initiation sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

Tisha Gildee of St Bernadette Parish was baptized in the Catholic Church as a child, but is only now being catechized. She too has been in the RCIA this year and will be confirmed by the Bishop and receive Holy Eucharist for the first time at the cathedral on Feb 26.

Please pray for these two new members and for their families.

While the beginning of a new school year is the ideal time to begin the process (which ordinarily leads to an Easter reception of the sacraments and an Easter season of orientation to the new reality), there is *never a time that is not a good time for coming to the Lord* and his Church.

FOOD PANTRY

The Bremen Food Pantry needs margarine or butter (among other things!). Place your donation in the refrigerator in the kitchen at St Mary parish hall. This will help the Pantry Open House on Saturday, Feb 27, from 9-11 AM, when any family in need can stop by to receive food assistance, with no prior registration or sign up needed.

SUNDAY MORNING ROSARY

Come pray the rosary together at St Bernadette on Sunday at 10:35 (shortly before the 11 AM Mass). Pray for the peace that comes to our society from the conversion of our hearts to the Lord. For questions or if you are interested in *the Women's Faith Sharing Group* sponsoring this, contact Kara . Tencza @ gmail . com.

SANDWICH SATURDAY

Each month a different grade at St Bernadette School makes meat and cheese sandwiches for Foundation Dinners to distribute to their patrons. St Bernadette students are *learning that serving and helping others can happen at any age*. Donations of zipper sandwich bags, lunch meat, cheese and bread are always welcome.

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

The collection at Bremen St Mary for Feb 14 netted \$1,626.
The St Bernadette offertory collection for Feb 14 came to \$5,804.

around the deanery

LENTE RETREAT AT ST JOSEPH

St Joseph Church in Sugar Grove will host a Lenten Retreat from Feb 27 to March 1. Father Thomas Blau OP, will celebrate all retreat Masses. Fr. Blau is a Dominican priest from St Patrick Church in Columbus and has been mandated (among 800 priests worldwide) by his Holiness Pope Francis to be a "Missionary of Mercy" during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Among the items on the schedule:

- Sunday, Feb 28—5 PM, a buffet supper with a retreat talk afterwards on "Role Models- Our Lady and St Peter".
- Monday, Feb 29—Confessions at 11 AM, followed by Mass at noon. Lunch at 1 PM. At 7 PM, a retreat talk "We Have a Pope" and "Why Confession."
- Tuesday, Mar 1- Mass at noon with the homily on "Divine Mercy". At 7 PM, a retreat talk "Eucharist" in Geiger Hall followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction in the church.

Guests are welcome. Come when you can and be blessed and glorify God during this Lenten season.

LENTE MORNING OF REFLECTION

"Mercy Upon Mercy" is the theme of this morning of reflection that happens on Saturday, Mar 19, from 9 AM – noon at Sts Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark. Facilitator is Sr Louis Mary Passeri, OP. Jesus proved his love for us by giving his life for us. Come and pray, listen, reflect and share with others as a response to his love. Cost is \$20, includes continental breakfast. Visit www.stspeterpaulretreatcenter.com, email info@stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.org or call (740) 928-4246 to register.

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LANCASTER ST MARY CEMETERY

Christmas decorations and all other *artificial decorations should be removed from graves* in St Mary Cemetery by Mar 1.

Decorations remaining on graves in March will be removed by cemetery personnel. Contact St Mary rectory office at (740) 653-0997 with any questions.

conferences, etc

Feb 20	Women's Conference	Voinovich Center, Columbus
Feb 27	Protecting God's Children	St John Church, Logan
Feb 27	Men's Conference	Voinovich Center, Columbus
Mar 5	Catholic Social Service Gala	Columbus Museum of Art
Mar 5	Respect Life Conference	St Joseph, Plain City

RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

The theme is *Being Pro-Life in the Year of Mercy*. The conference runs from 10 AM - 3 PM; registration is \$20 which includes lunch. Featured speakers are

- Fr Kevin Lutz, pastor St Mary, St Ladislav, & Corpus Christi, *Being Pro-Life in the Year of Mercy*;
- Tim Welch, CEO, Pregnancy Decisions Health Center, *Guardian Angel Program*;
- Wendy Tarr, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, *Prisoner Reentry*.

Other topics include natural family planning, pro-life elements of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' latest encyclical letter on *Care for our Common Home*, parish Respect Life Program Resources, and updates on legislation and advocacy efforts. Learn more about diocesan efforts to promote the dignity of human life through prayer, education, pastoral outreach, and advocacy. To register, send a check for \$20 payable to the Office for Social Concerns, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215. For details, call (614) 241-2540 or email socmailbox@colsdioec.org.

MEN'S CONFERENCE

At this event Bishop Campbell will celebrate Mass and there will be opportunities for Penance, as well as some entertainment and lots of fellowship with a thousand or two of the most interesting people in central Ohio. Men will meet on Feb 27 for the 19th annual Conference with a theme of "*Call to Discipleship*." They will hear Fr Larry Richards, Hector Molina, David Karam, and Doug Lessells.

This event happens at the Voinovich Center at the Ohio fairgrounds in Columbus. Call Pat Gins at (740) 536-7402 for information.

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON CLUB

The next Catholic Men's Luncheon Club session will feature Father Michael Mary Dosch, OP, pastor of St Patrick and Dominican Friar of the Province of St Joseph. His talk will be "*Mercy and Justice*" and will be sponsored by Edgewood Home Maintenance. This event happens at St Patrick Church in downtown Columbus on Friday, Mar 4. Holy Mass begins at 11:45 AM followed by lunch and Father's talk until 1 PM. No reservations necessary. \$10 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend.



SPIRIT OF HOPE GALA

Catholic Social Services of the Columbus Diocese will have a gala event on Saturday, March 5, at 6:30 PM at the Columbus Museum of Art. This annual event benefits Catholic Social Services' 14 programs designed *to strengthen individuals and families, provide crisis relief, and help seniors age with grace and independence* in the 23 counties of Central and Southern Ohio. To purchase tickets, contact (asap!) Mackenzie Burton at (614) 221-5891 or mburton @ colsess . org.

CHRIST PRESENT IN YOUR MARRIAGE

A *Marriage Encounter weekend* will help you to let your marriage be renewed as a sacrament, a sign of the Lord's presence in the world. The next weekend in central Ohio is Apr 22-24. For information or to register, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www . wmmecolumbus . org](http://www.wmccolumbus.org).

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

There will be a Protecting God's Children session at St John Church in Logan on Saturday, Feb 27, from 9 AM until noon. Deacon Don Robers will facilitate. Call the parish office for information.

DOWN SYNDROME NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

Ohio Right to Life is sponsoring a legislative advocacy day on Tuesday, Apr 12, at the Statehouse, for Ohio's Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act, legislation which could make Ohio the first state *to protect babies with Down syndrome from abortion*. To register, visit [www . ohio-life . org/pro life legislative day 2016](http://www.ohiolife.org/pro-life-legislative-day-2016) or call (614) 547-0099 ext 303.

BETHESDA HEALING MINISTRY

Christ invites each of us to come to Him for healing and hope, even *from an abortion of long ago*. He is waiting! Bethesda Healing Ministry (614) 309-0157 or (614) 309-2651.

and elsewhere

CELEBRATING SOME SAINTS ... ON EWTN

Dominic: Light of the Church, a dramatic portrayal of Saint Dominic, a renowned preacher who was a tireless defender of the Faith and famous for his profound learning, heroic sanctity and apostolic zeal, will air Saturday, Feb 27, at 8 PM. on EWTN.

St Peter is the story of the man chosen by Jesus to lead his Church as the first pope. This film, featuring Omar Sharif, is in two parts. Part 1 airs Saturday, Mar 5, and part 2 airs Saturday, Mar 13, both will be on at 8 PM.

Learn more about your Faith during the holiest time of the year with EWTN's first-rate movies, documentaries, musicals, and children's programs. You can even join in *the celebration of holy day Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome* or at the majestic basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Father Michael Dosch, OP, pastor of St Patrick in Columbus, invites you to join the 62nd US *National Rosary Pilgrimage to Lourdes*, June 23 to July 3, *accompanied by clergy and medical staff* to assist the needs of the pilgrims. Pilgrims will also visit *sites associated with the early Dominicans* in honor of the *Jubilee of the foundation of the Dominican Order in 1216*, celebrating 800 years

of Our Lady's entrustment of the Rosary to St Dominic and his order. Contact Fr Michael at pastor @ stpatrickcolumbus . com or the pilgrimage office at 1 (877) 276-7279 or [lourdespilgrimageoffice @ comcast . net](mailto:lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net) Read more at [www . lourdes-pilgrimage . com](http://www.lourdes-pilgrimage.com); registration deadline is Mar 15.

FATIMA AND LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Father Stash Dailey, pastor of Holy Family Church in Columbus, invites you to join the 62nd US National Rosary Pilgrimage to Lourdes, June 23 to July 4, accompanied by clergy and medical staff to assist the needs of the pilgrims. Pilgrims will also visit the great Marian shrine of Fatima, Lisbon, Santarem and Nazare. For details contact Liz Grindler at the pilgrimage office at 1 (877) 276-7279 or [lourdespilgrimageoffice @ comcast . net](mailto:lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net) Read more at [www . lourdes-pilgrimage . com](http://www.lourdes-pilgrimage.com).

time to go to Confession

LENT : ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME FOR CONFESSION?

When you go to examine your conscience, recall the criteria the Lord has promised to use in assessing the goodness of our lives. He did let us know that we need to keep the commandments. Then he talked about what might surprise us:

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right,

'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. *Inherit the kingdom prepared for you* from the foundation of the world. *For I was hungry* and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say,

'Lord, *when did we see you hungry* and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply,

'Amen, I say to you, *whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine*, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left,

'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For *I was hungry and you gave me no food*, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say,

'Lord, *when did we see you hungry* or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?'

He will answer them,

'Amen, I say to you, *what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.*'

And *these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.*"

readings, feasts, and memorials for this week

Saturday, Feb 20						
Sunday, Feb 21	2nd Sunday of Lent	Genesis 15:5-18	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Psalms 27	Luke 9:28-36	
Monday, Feb 22	Chair of St Peter the Apostle	1 Peter 5:1-4		Psalms 23	Matt 16:13-19	
Tuesday, Feb 23	St Polycarp	Isaiah 1:10-20		Psalms 50	Matt 23:1-12	
Wednesday, Feb 24	Lenten Weekday	Jeremiah 18:18-20		Psalms 31	Matt 20:17-28	
Thursday, Feb 25	Lenten Weekday	Jeremiah 17:5-10		Psalms 1	Luke 16:19-31	
Friday, Feb 26	Lenten Weekday	Genesis 37:3-28		Psalms 105	Matt 21:33-46	
Saturday, Feb 27	Lenten Weekday	Micah 7:14-20		Psalms 103	Luke 15:1-32	
Sunday, Feb 28	3rd Sunday of Lent	Exodus 3:1-15	1 Corinthians 10:1-12	Psalms 103	Luke 13:1-9	

Mass intentions and ministers this week at St Mary

		intention	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sunday, Feb 21	8:30 AM	<i>for the people</i>	Barb Van Fossen-Cook	Sydnee Rogers Nicole Terry	Damian & Debbie Schmelzer, Barb Van Fossen-Cook	Catherine Noll April Schmelzer	Damian Schmelzer
Tuesday, Feb 23	8:20 AM	<i>Wayne Kelley</i>	Jim Schmelzer				Jim Schmelzer
Sunday, Feb 28	8:30 AM	<i>for the people</i>	Karen Wolfe	Abby Skinner Jillian Wilkinson	Jim Schmelzer, Angi Skinner, Karen Wolfe	James Noll Jr family	Jim Schmelzer

Mass intentions and ministers this week at St Bernadette

		intention	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion
Saturday, Feb 20	4 PM	<i>deceased of St Vincent de Paul</i>	Teresa Carpenter	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Susan Garrett, Joyce Guenther, Kathy Kehnast, Jim & Rebecca Kuhn, Sandy Landefeld
Sunday, Feb 21	11 AM	<i>for the people</i>	Dennis Forquer	Samantha Kerns, Logan & Tori Loy	Patricia Dreyer, Nancy Griffith, Jim & Rita Merk, Larry Sanford, Valerie Shaw
Monday, Feb 22	8:20 AM	<i>Juanita Keyes</i>	Mary Jane Vajen	Emma McCrady, Addy Myers	Patricia Dreyer, Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, Feb 24	8:20 AM	<i>John Muetzel</i>	Bob Christy	Emeline Neighbor, Avee Solt	Mary Guinan, Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, Feb 25	6 PM	<i>Margaret Lonergan</i>	Kathy Kehnast	Kendall Cox, Cady Tipple	Kathy Kehnast, Paul Lonergan
Friday, Feb 26	8:20 AM	<i>Pete Kunkler</i>	Robin Sanders	Emma McCrady, Addy Myers	Jim & Rita Merk
Saturday, Feb 27	4 PM	<i>Anna Alonso</i>	Tara Craaybeek	Clara & Susan Craaybeek, Eve Darfus	Terry Carpenter, Rosalie DeFillippo, Marguerite Grimm, Denise McGuire, Brad Rider, Craig Shaw
Sunday, Feb 28	11 AM	<i>for the people</i>	Robert Christy	Collin McCrady, Caroline Messerly, Makaila Moses	Benjamin Peters, Larry Sanford, Teresa Scarpitti, David Shonk, Mary Jane Vajen, Amy Woo

Confessions and weekday Masses each week in the deanery

confessions	the parish	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 AM Sunday	Bremen St Mary		8:20 AM				
5:30 Thursday & 3 Saturday 8:30 AM on 1 st Saturday	Lancaster St Bernadette	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	1 st Saturday 9 AM
4-5 Saturday	Lancaster St Mary	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		
5:30 Saturday	Lancaster St Mark	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM	
½ hour before each Mass	Sugar Grove St Joseph	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	
	Circleville St Joseph						
4-4:45 Saturday	Logan St John	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM

Marriage and Remarriage

It is easier to get married than to stay married. A person finds and falls in love with Mr. or Miss (or Mrs.) Right and they get married. Then they live happily ever after. But sometimes they don't. Things go wrong. They divorce and then try again with someone else. And sometimes they try again. And again.

Often it does work out beautifully. Every person getting married wants it to. Why doesn't it always turn out better? We could blame the problems in marriages on so many things. One solution that becomes *part of the problem*, is *the escape valve of divorce*. When divorce wasn't readily available, marrying couples entered marriage knowing they had to make it work. Not every marriage was a good marriage, but *every husband and every wife knew that they had no choice*—not just that it was a good idea; they had to keep trying, in good times and in bad, in sickness or health, until death. When an escape valve was attached, it was meant to help; the effect, for so many, was to turn a lifetime commitment into a wish. *Instead of "I will persevere", there developed a sense of "I sure hope it works."*

Even the Catholic Church knows there are *times when a divorce may be necessary*: To protect a spouse or a child from abuse, for instance. But it is essential to understand what that means: *The effect of a divorce is not to end a marriage, the union of a man and a woman joined together by God*. Jesus said:

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate."

Matthew 19:6

A divorce ends what the state of Ohio (or wherever) has joined together. It ends the civil contract, which is an agreement about property, inheritance, residence, regulation of the upbringing of children, etc. *It doesn't end what God has joined together*.

That's why the Catholic Church says a divorced Catholic person must not marry someone else. And a Catholic isn't able to marry a divorced person. It isn't a judgment on the problems of the marriage from which a person was divorced or on the quality of the divorced person. It is just a matter of eligibility for further marriage in the Catholic Church. And the Church presumes the validity of marriages of non-Catholics, even if they are no longer living in marriage.

So when people divorce, often for legitimate reason, this does not disqualify them from the sacramental life. But they must not think that their marriage is ended and thus they are free to date and remarry. To do that puts a person outside that sacramental life.

The Church's restrictions about remarriage make sense, even if they are difficult. But there is a wise escape clause here. The Church recognizes *any marriage as valid unless and until it is demonstrated never to have been a marriage in the first place*. That is the tricky part. It's where the *Catholic annulment* enters in.

An annulment is a declaration by a tribunal, authorized by a Catholic bishop. The annulment's decree of dissolution *says that something fundamental was missing at the moment when the marriage commitment was actually made*. After a careful look into the matter, it says that *what looks like a marriage in a particular case is in fact no marriage at all*. Not that there had been a marriage and that it ended, but that it was not the real thing from the beginning of the marriage. No one is to be blamed; there are no winners and losers. The issue is just whether there was or was not a marriage.

So *who can get an annulment*? Not just people who donate a lot of time or money to the Church; in fact, they get no special treatment. Sure, in earlier times it was mostly kings and princes and not peasants and laborers who had their marriages annulled. The rich and powerful had the leisure and the resources to pursue this legal procedure. That has changed in modern society. Now ordinary people can more readily seek annulments.

What are the grounds for a church tribunal to declare that what once looked like a marriage is not a marriage? The simplest situation (even if the break of the marriage is never simple or easy) is this: *a Catholic gets married, but not according to the law of the Catholic Church* (gets married "outside the Church" not in the sense that it was an outdoor wedding or a wedding in a Protestant church building, but in the sense that it was without the authorization of the Catholic's pastor). In that case all that needs to happen is that the person demonstrates that he was a Catholic, was married without the needed authorization, and then divorced. The invalidating fact here is *a Catholic's marrying in the absence of the sacrament of matrimony*.

Another, and much more complicated matter is *the lack* in a person getting married (Catholic or otherwise, in a Catholic ceremony or otherwise) *of something fundamental to marriage*. There are several invalidating situations: one of the spouses is homosexually inclined, or in the clutches of drug or alcohol addiction. Sometimes a spouse intentionally precludes the possibility of having children or of being faithful or of living with the other person. There are cases of serious ignorance about the nature of marriage or of emotional immaturity.

The Church takes up these concerns for divorced persons when there is a request by someone seeking to marry according to the law of the Church. If after a thorough study the Church declares a marriage to have been null and void, it has *no effect on children born of that marriage*, and it *doesn't assign blame for a marriage's failure*. It is just a decree that a person is free to receive the sacrament of matrimony in the Catholic Church.

If you have questions about this process, please ask me or one of our deacons. We can't guarantee the results of the process. But we do commit ourselves to treating you with respect. We'll be happy to help.

— Father Kessler

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