



## “His name shall be called John”

### The Naming of St John the Baptist

Painted (1434-35) in tempera and gold on panel, 26 x 24 cm,  
by Fra Angelico (1395-1455; born Guido di Pietro; known as a Dominican friar as Fra Giovanni da Fiesole,  
beatified by St John Paul II)

Museo di San Marco, Florence

## The 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 19, 2016

**Saint Bernadette Parish**

**Saint Mary Parish**

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

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

*stbernadetteparish . net*

## 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 **July 20**. 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.** 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.

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



## Our Parishes

FATHER THOMAS KESSLER pastor  
(614) 634-0499 [wmthomaskessler@icloud.com](mailto:wmthomaskessler@icloud.com)

### AT ST BERNADETTE PARISH

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

*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](mailto:b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us)  
JIM SCHMELZER  
maintenance chair  
TYNA FOX-SCHMELZER  
religious education (614) 371-7702  
coordinator [schmelifox@earthlink.net](mailto:schmelifox@earthlink.net)  
BREMEN ST VINCENT DE PAUL 569-3710

*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 [businessstbparish@yahoo.com](mailto:businessstbparish@yahoo.com)  
bookkeeper  
KATHY KEHNAST 654-1893 [stbparish@yahoo.com](mailto:stbparish@yahoo.com)  
pastoral coordinator  
ANGIE & KENT KERNS 654-2588 [kwkerns@gmail.com](mailto:kwkerns@gmail.com)  
religious education  
JULIE & CHASE STALFORD 808-7294  
youth ministry [maristellaspirit@gmail.com](mailto:maristellaspirit@gmail.com)

### AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

PAM ELTRINGHAM, principal [peltring@cdeeducation.org](mailto:peltring@cdeeducation.org)  
BARB HUBER, secretary [bhuber@cdeeducation.org](mailto:bhuber@cdeeducation.org)  
*Saint Bernadette School* is located at  
1325 Wheeling Rd, 654-3137  
Lancaster, OH 43130-8701 [www.stbernadetteschool.com](http://www.stbernadetteschool.com)  
[stbernlan@cdeeducation.org](mailto:stbernlan@cdeeducation.org)

## let us pray

### PRAYER FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY

Grant, O Lord,  
that we may always revere and love your holy name  
for you never deprive of your guidance  
those you set firm on the foundation of your love.  
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.

### PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS DURING JUNE

His universal intention about human solidarity:

**That the aged, marginalized, and those who have no one may find – even within the huge cities of the world – opportunities for encounter and solidarity.**

His evangelization intention for seminarians and novices:

**That seminarians and men and women entering religious life may have mentors who live the joy of the Gospel and prepare them wisely for their mission.**

## Bremen St Mary

### summer square dances

St Mary Parish will have two more square dances at Schmelzer's Grove for the whole family this summer. They will be held on the Sundays of July 10 and Aug 14 from 7-9 PM. Cost is \$3 @ person.

### st vincent de paul

The next St Vincent de Paul Society meeting will be on Tuesday, June 21, at 7 PM. New members are always welcome. If you have questions, call Angi Skinner at 438-0027.

### your donation to the 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, June 25, from 9-11 AM, when any family in need can stop by to receive food assistance, with no prior registration or sign up needed.

### ministers at mass at bremen st mary

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
<b>Sunday, June 19 8:30 AM</b>	Jeanne Schmelzer	Caden & Cody Fyffe	Tyna Schmelzer -Fox, Joe & Cathy Young	Maurice Schmelzer family	Joe Young
Tuesday, June 21 8:20 AM	Jim Schmelzer				Jim Schmelzer
<b>Sunday, June 26 8:30 AM</b>	Linda Qualls	Brooke Holt Jillian Wilkinson	Neil Boch, Jim Schmelzer, Karen Wolfe	Catherine Noll, April Schmelzer	Jim Schmelzer

### parish contributions

The collection at Bremen St Mary for June 12 netted \$1,409.

### gardening for our parish

If you would like to *help landscape and maintain the yard of St Mary*, contact Kathy Kehnast to volunteer.

## St Bernadette

### st bernadette school registration

St Bernadette School looks forward to registering students from St Bernadette and St Mary Bremen parishes for next school year. We accept enrollment for new students grades K-5, and 3, 4, and 5-year-old preschool students. Bring a copy of their birth or baptismal certificates. St Bernadette **preschool** offers kindergarten-readiness goals, within a flexible schedule.

**Elementary** grades (full-day-kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) offer a program of academic excellence and positive experiences. Make St Bernadette School **your "primary" choice for a really Catholic Education!** For information, call the school office at 654-3137.

### may she rest in peace

In your charity please pray for the repose of the soul of Vera Boyd, mother of Garry Boyd and grandmother of Julie Messerly of St. Bernadette Parish. Vera died at 95 years of age on May 25 and she was buried near her home in Illinois.

### scholarships

**Income-Based EdChoice Expansion Scholarships** allow more students to attend St. Bernadette School. Students, meeting the income eligibility (e.g.: family of 4, income \$48,600), can attend St. Bernadette School next fall **at no cost** to parents, thanks to 8000 vouchers available from the Ohio Department of Education. Scholarships are available for kindergartners, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. This is **a great opportunity for single parents, one-income homes, fixed-income house-holds, and working families**. Every family can explore this possibility. Contact the school office for information.

### job openings at st bernadette school

St Bernadette School is offering part-time employment in the following areas for the 2016-2017 school year:

- **Cafeteria manager** The cafeteria manager is responsible for the overall operations of the National School Lunch Program in our school. This includes cafeteria finances, lunch preparation, and cafeteria staff. An applicant must complete and maintain current BCI/FBI background checks and participate in **VIRTUS Protecting God's Children safe environment program**. Contact Malissa at malissagauerke @ hotmail . com for information or to apply.
- **Educational aide** This aide will offer one-on-one student support, provide testing accommodations, and administer screenings to provide data to interventions specialists. An applicant must complete and maintain current BCI/FBI background checks and participate in **VIRTUS Protecting God's Children safe environment program** and obtain and hold an Educational Aide Certificate. Send letter of intent or questions to Pam Eltringham, principal (peltring @ cdeducation . org)

### Ministers at Mass at St Bernadette

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
<b>Saturday, June 18 4 PM</b>	Becky Kuhn	Mallory, Mason & McKenzie Ortiz	Rose DeFillippo Marguerite Grimm Joyce Guenther	Jim Kuhn Denise McGuire Craig Shaw
<b>Sunday, June 19 11 AM</b>	John Hartig	Anna Hartig, Collin McCrady, Caroline Messerly	Pat Dreyer Nancy Griffith Lee Guinan	Larry Sanford Dave Shonk Becky Wickham
Monday, June 20 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Avee Solt Mitchell Ortiz	Pat Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, June 22 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Kendall Cox Sarah Woo	Mary Guinan	Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, June 23 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Cady Tipple Carley Matson	Mary Guinan	Paul Lonergan
Friday, June 24 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Emma McCrady Lexi Utz	Jim & Rita Merk	
<b>Saturday, June 25 4 PM</b>	Tara Craaybeek	Clara & Susan Craaybeek, Eve Darfus	Kathy Kehnast Sandy Landefeld Brad Rider	Mary Steyaert Shelia Taylor Kathy Wagner
<b>Sunday, June 26 11 AM</b>	Bob Christy	Ashlyn & Brennan Quaintance, Drew Solt	Lee Guinan Ben Peters Larry Sanford	Teresa Scarpitti Valerie Shaw Julie Whitehead

### 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.**

**parish contributions**

The St Bernadette offertory collection for June 12 came to \$4,683.

**in both our parishes**

**peter’s pence**

Next week, our diocese will collect Peter’s Pence, a collection that provides Pope Francis (the successor of Peter) with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Join the Holy Father as a witness of charity to those who are suffering.

**vacation church school**

It has had to be rescheduled, but it is going to be a fantastic time! St Mary Parish in Bremen invites the families of all local children (especially those from Bremen St Mary and St Bernadette Parishes!) to **Vacation Church School** (not just a Bible school, but a Church school!). The new week for this exciting event is the evenings of July 11-15, from 5:30–8 PM (with a family dinner at 5:30). It will happen **at Schmelzer’s Grove**, that wonderful little park on Sacred Heart Road(!) about 4 miles south of Bremen, the site of the original home of St Mary Parish. This year’s theme is

**The Saints teach us about the Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love**

**Volunteers are needed** and should contact Angie Kerns at [kwkerns@gmail.com](mailto:kwkerns@gmail.com).

Please notice that this is a different thing from the Catholic Youth Summer Camp. Read about that on the next page.

**we still need extraordinary ministers**

The Church doesn’t call them “*distributors*”; a distributor is a mechanical device which controls the flow of gasoline to an automobile engine; it might also be a person who puts a plastic bag of advertising on your porch. The **Eucharistic Minister** in the Catholic Church is the bishop, the priest, or the deacon. Because of the relative shortage of these, a local bishop is currently endowed with the faculty to appoint **extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion** from among a list of trained parishioners submitted to him by the pastors of parishes. These ministers are appointed for two year terms in this service in a specific parish. Their ministry is valuable for their parish. There are two reasons to have such ministers:

- They help the priest and the deacons make the distribution of Holy Communion go reasonably expeditiously at Mass, and
- They take the Sacrament to parishioners and other Catholics who are in the hospital, in a nursing home, or shut in at home, especially on Sundays.

This service is not a sign of accomplishment or prestige. It is not an item for a curriculum vitae. The requirements are knowledge and acceptance of the Eucharistic faith, as well as availability, reliability, and decorum in service to the Church. Oh, and you would need to be a Catholic “in good standing,” which means not in any public way

living contrary to the law or the teaching of the Church.

**We particularly need men** for this task. It is hard to say why it is, but we currently have a disproportionate lack of men serving in this ministry in our parish. The women are great, serving well. But we must restore balance. We currently send the inadvertent message that this ministry is a woman thing and not for men to do. Men need to step up, too, if we are to use extraordinary ministers.

**If you can help**, please contact Kathy Kehnast this week. She will let you know of a brief but necessary training session.

**helping the Church in ecuador**

Church communities in Ecuador are reeling from a 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck on Apr 16, claiming more than 500 lives and destroying thousands of homes and roads. As many as 100,000 people have been affected. **Catholic Relief Services** teams, along with Church partners on the ground, are **focusing on meeting immediate needs in remote towns that have not received aid yet**. This includes clean water, temporary shelter, food and living supplies. CRS will also work to ensure sanitation and hygiene to prevent diseases. **You can donate** by phone at 1-877-HELP-CRS; online at [donate.crs.org/Ecuador](http://donate.crs.org/Ecuador); or by check at Catholic Relief Services, Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090.

**preparing for baptism**

No parents registered for the baptismal preparation class this month. So we have postponed the quarterly preparation class until Wednesday, July 20. You can read about the importance, rationale, etc of such a class on the second page of this bulletin.

**envelopes for youth**

Children and youth have **a responsibility to support the Church**. Most of them don’t have access to much money (or do they?), so their contributions are necessarily small. But this is the time to teach them their responsibility. Contribution envelopes are ready to be picked up in the main entry vestibule at St Mary and the school vestibule at St Bernadette.

at St Bernadette		at St Mary	
4 PM	for the people	Saturday, June 18	
		Sunday, June 19	8:30 AM for the people
11 AM	for the people	Sunday, June 19	
8:20 AM	John Muetzel	Monday, June 20	
		Tuesday, June 21	8:20 AM Msgr Thomas Bender
8:20 AM	deceased members of Seigny family	Wednesday, June 22	
6 PM	William Mahon	Thursday, June 23	
8:20 AM	Juanita Keyes	Friday, June 24	
4 PM	for the people	Saturday, June 25	
		Sunday, June 26	8:30 AM for the people
11 AM	for the people	Sunday, June 26	

**be sure to serve him faithfully**

Liturgical ministers should try to find a substitute when they are unable to fulfill their assignments.



**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: 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.

**in the diocese of columbus**

**day of reflection**

The Office for Divine Worship of the diocese of Columbus is sponsoring a day of reflection with EWTN teacher, Fr Mitch Pacwa SJ, entitled “*Sacred Scripture in Worship: Understanding God’s Word in the Life of the Church*” on Saturday, June 25, from 8 AM-4:30 PM. The event will be held at St Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Rd, Columbus. Cost of \$20 includes continental breakfast, lunch and snacks. Sign up is available online via Eventbrite, for information call (614) 221-4640.

**get your marriage in shape**

Are you exercising and dieting, jogging, swimming, and playing tennis to stay fit and trim? What are you doing to keep your marriage in good shape? Why not try a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend? The next two weekends in central Ohio are Aug 5-7 and Nov 11-13. For information or to register, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www.wmccolumbus.org](http://www.wmccolumbus.org).

**bishop’s annual appeal 2016**

**“be his hope to others”**

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal is off and running. Here are the results at our parishes after seven weeks.

households participating	St Bernadette	St Mary
total pledged	\$ 37,410	\$ 19,510
average gift	\$ 277	\$ 336
total paid	\$ 18,560	\$ 5,145
parish BAA goal	\$ 43,136	\$ 12,703

The Appeal *supports our parish schools of religion and the education of our future priests and deacons, and many families in need of our help*. Your gift and your prayers will help to make this year’s appeal a success. The Diocesan Goal is \$6,300,000. Every contribution counts; every dollar that we raise over the stated goal will be returned to our parishes to benefit our communities directly.

Last year St Bernadette pledged slightly over and collected slightly under the goal. Bremen St Mary pledged well over the goal and has received the rebate from the diocese. One reason for our strong effort at St Mary was a three-year campaign three years ago to collect more, so that the amount would be over the goal, which would be rebated to the parish and support the costs of the new roof there. At St Bernadette we had what seemed a less urgent need and the support for the BAA has been accordingly less. So there is no rebate this year for St. B. But the diocese has needs and so do the parishes.

We know *we can reach the goals* and support the diocese as well as go over and support the parishes. It requires thoughtful consideration and prayer, with everyone giving according to our ability. We are blessed with much; let us remember the needs of others, as well as the needs of our own parishes.

**catholic youth summer camp**

Catholic Youth Summer Camp (CYSC), a ministry based in our diocese, is a 6-day and 5-night experience providing students with a week full of *high adventure actives and high adventure faith*. CYSC is open to all students entering grades 6-12, and there are 8 sessions available this summer. CYSC offers a truly Catholic and safe environment with daily catechesis that awakens faith and builds missionary disciples. A week at camp includes daily Mass, adoration, reconciliation, small group conversations, worship, service, and authentic community. For information, visit [www.cysc.com](http://www.cysc.com).

**in the deanery**

**confessions & weekday Mass nearby**

These are the regularly scheduled times. They 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 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 each 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

**fortnight for freedom 2016**

**current threats to religious freedom ... in our own country!**

During his September 2015 visit to the United States, Pope Francis emphasized the importance of religious freedom, saying in front of the White House that religious “freedom remains one of America’s most precious possessions. And, as my brothers, the United States Bishops, have reminded us, all are called to be vigilant, precisely as good citizens, to preserve and defend that freedom from everything that would threaten or compromise it.” Although Americans generally do not face the kind of violent persecution endured by many people of faith around the world, Pope Francis has recently spoken of a “polite persecution” that many people face, as “when someone is persecuted not for confessing Christ’s name, but for wanting to demonstrate the values of the Son of God”. Religious freedom continues to be threatened in the US:

- **HHS mandate for sterilization, contraception, and abortion-inducing drugs.** The mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services forces religious institutions to facilitate or fund a product contrary to their own moral teaching. Further, the federal government tries to define which religious institutions are “religious enough” to merit protection of their religious liberty.
- **Catholic foster care and adoption services.** Boston, San Francisco, the District of Columbia, and the State of Illinois forced local Catholic Charities out of adoption or foster care services— by revoking their licenses, ending government contracts, or both—because they refused to place children with same-sex couples or unmarried opposite-sex couples who cohabit.
- **State immigration laws.** Several states have passed laws that forbid what they call “harboring” undocumented immigrants—and what the Church deems Christian charity and pastoral care to immigrants.
- **Discrimination against small church congregations.** New York City adopted a policy that barred the Bronx Household of Faith and other churches from renting public schools on weekends for worship services, even though non-religious groups could rent the same schools for other uses.
- **Discrimination against Catholic humanitarian services.** After years of excellent performance by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) in administering contract services for victims of human trafficking, the federal government changed its contract specifications to require MRS to provide or refer for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of Catholic teaching.
- **Christian students on campus.** In its over-100-year history, the University of California Hastings College of Law has denied student organization status to only one group, the Christian Legal Society, because it required its leaders to be Christian and to abstain from sexual activity outside of marriage.

Pope Francis has asked American Catholics to preserve and defend religious freedom, both in the United States and throughout the world.

Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty  
[www.usccb.org/freedom](http://www.usccb.org/freedom) | Twitter: @USCCBFreedom  
[www.fortnight4freedom.org](http://www.fortnight4freedom.org)

## fortnight for freedom

**Witnesses To Freedom** will take place from June 21 to July 4, 2016, a time when our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power—St Thomas More and St John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, Sts Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. Visit the USCCB website at [www.fortnight4freedom.org](http://www.fortnight4freedom.org).

## praying together for religious freedom: Mass and holy hour at our cathedral

As part of the national Fortnight for Freedom, **Mass and Holy Hour for Religious Freedom** will be celebrated on Wednesday, June 29, 5:15 PM, at St Joseph Cathedral, 212 E Broad Street, Columbus. The Mass will conclude with a special Holy Hour beginning with a rosary for religious freedom, followed by silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and concluding with Benediction. We are all invited to participate in this evening of prayer. For information, contact the Cathedral at (614) 224-1295. Elevator access to the Cathedral is available via the west entrance (in the courtyard) from E Broad Street. For information about the Fortnight for Freedom, visit [www.fortnight4freedom.org](http://www.fortnight4freedom.org).

## living mercy in a jubilee year

### mercy: beating heart of the gospel

Pope Francis writes: “It is absolutely essential for the Church and for the credibility of her message that she herself live and testify to mercy.” **Mercy, he says, is “the beating heart of the Gospel”** (*Misericordiae Vultus*). To live mercy, we must rediscover both the **spiritual works of mercy**

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

and the **corporal works of mercy**

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

Which spiritual works of mercy might Christ be calling you to practice? Which corporal works of mercy?

## the Church’s plan to read God’s word

Sat June 18	Sun June 19	12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Zechariah 12:10-13:1	Galatians 3:26-29	Psalm 63	Luke 9:18-24
Mon June 20			2 Kings 17:5-18		Psalm 60	Matthew 7:1-5
Tues June 21		St Aloysius Gonzaga	2 Kings 19:9-36		Psalm 48	Matthew 7:6-14
Weds June 22		St Paulinus of Nola, Sts John Fisher & Thomas More	2 Kings 22:8-23:3		Psalm 119	Matthew 7:15-20
Thurs June 23			2 Kings 24:8-17		Psalm 79	Matthew 7:21-29
Fri June 24		Nativity of St John the Baptist	Isaiah 49:1-6	Acts 13:22-26	Psalm 139	Luke 1:57-80
Sat June 25			Lamentations 2:2-19		Psalm 74	Matthew 8:5-17
Sun June 26		13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	1 Kings 19:16-21	Galatians 5:1-18	Psalm 16	Luke 9:51-62

# Witnesses to Freedom

## Saints Thomas More and John Fisher



Bishop John Fisher and Sir Thomas More were Renaissance men. Talented and energetic, politically well-connected, they both contributed to the humanist scholarship of early modern England. They died for their Catholic Faith.

Saint Thomas More wrote theological and philosophical treatises, while making a splendid career as a lawyer and government official. Bishop John Fisher worked as an administrator at Cambridge, confronted the challenge Martin Luther presented to Christian Europe, and most importantly served as Bishop of Rochester. As a bishop, he is notable for his dedication to preaching at a time when bishops tended to focus on politics. These men were brilliant. They both corresponded with the great humanist Erasmus of Rotterdam, who helped Bishop Fisher learn Greek and Hebrew, and who also famously referred to More as a man *omnium horarium*, a man of all seasons.

Above all their accomplishments, these men bore witness to a deep faith in Christ and his Church. More considered joining religious life and was assiduous in his devotional practices. As a married man, he committed himself wholly to his vocation as a father. At the time, disciplinary practices with children tended to be severe, but More's children testify to his warmth, patience, and generosity.

Saint John Fisher was a model shepherd and demonstrated remarkable humility. He remained in the small Diocese of Rochester his entire episcopal ministry, devoting himself to his local church rather than accept promotion to a larger, richer, more powerful diocese.

More and Fisher are especially remembered for opposing King Henry's divorce. Ultimately, their refusal to sign an oath of supremacy led them both to be beheaded in early summer of 1535. King Henry VIII claimed to be the supreme head of the Church in England, asserting sovereign power over English Christians. Neither Fisher nor More could abide this claim, and their steadfastness to their consciences put them in conflict with the king. They were convicted of treason.

When More made his way to the gallows, he is said to have stated, "***I die the King's good servant, but God's first.***" Both More and Fisher were patriots. They never rose up to incite rebellion or foment revolution. They were not traitors. But when the law of the king came into conflict with the law of Christ, they chose Christ. These men gave their lives for the freedom of the Church and for freedom of conscience. They bear witness to the truth that no government can make a claim on a person's soul.

Saints Thomas More and John Fisher, pray that we too will be good servants to our country, but God's first!

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