

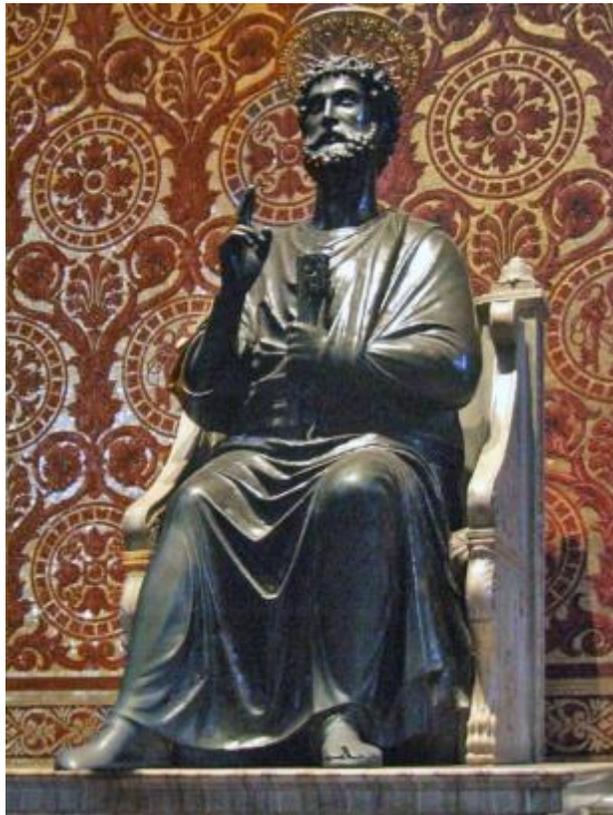
# St Bernadette Parish

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

# St Mary Parish

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

[stbernadetteparish.net](http://stbernadetteparish.net)



## St Peter at his Chair, holding the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven

for the feast of Saint Peter's Chair which the Church celebrates this Wednesday.

The Gospel for the day is Matthew 16:13-19, which includes the words of Jesus to Peter:

I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.  
And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it.  
I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven:  
whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven;  
whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

a very old bronze statue of Saint Peter,  
a few yards from the dome of the great basilica of Peter's place of martyrdom and burial  
attributed by some to the sculptor Arnolfo di Cambio (1240-1300/1310)  
whereas others say it may have been made as early as 400 AD.

## The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year

FEBRUARY 19, 2017

## Our Parishes

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

### AT ST BERNADETTE PARISH

<http://stbernadetteparish.net>

MARK SCARPITTI (740) 438-3970  
deacon [dcn.mark@frontier.com](mailto:dcn.mark@frontier.com)  
JEFF CARPENTER (740) 681-9918  
deacon [carpenter.277@osu.edu](mailto:carpenter.277@osu.edu)  
ANN ESSMAN (740) 653-9347  
pastoral minister [aessman001@att.net](mailto:aessman001@att.net)  
STEVE HUBER (740) 654-3137  
facilities coordinator [shuber57@yahoo.com](mailto:shuber57@yahoo.com)  
LIZ LATORRE (740) 243-1872  
liturgical music [lizlattere@gmail.com](mailto:lizlattere@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 43130-8701 (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 (740) 215-3894  
TYNA FOX-SCHMELZER  
religious education (614) 371-7702

*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 (740) 654-1893  
bookkeeper [businessstbparish@yahoo.com](mailto:businessstbparish@yahoo.com)  
KATHY KEHNAST (740) 654-1893  
pastoral coordinator [stbernparish@yahoo.com](mailto:stbernparish@yahoo.com)  
ANGIE & KENT KERNS (740) 654-2588  
religious education [kwkerns@gmail.com](mailto:kwkerns@gmail.com)  
JULIE & CHASE STALFORD (740) 808-7294  
youth ministry [maristellaspirt@gmail.com](mailto:maristellaspirt@gmail.com)

### AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

PAM ELTRINGHAM [peltring@ceducation.org](mailto:peltring@ceducation.org)  
principal  
BARB HUBER [bhuber@ceducation.org](mailto:bhuber@ceducation.org)  
secretary

*Saint Bernadette School* is located at  
1325 Wheeling Rd, (740) 654-3137  
Lancaster, OH 43130-8701  
[www.stbernadetteschool.com](http://www.stbernadetteschool.com)  
[stbernlan@ceducation.org](mailto:stbernlan@ceducation.org).

## 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. 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 Catholics. If you don't attend Sunday Mass regularly (a major component of being a practicing Catholic), there is something you 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. 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. That's why our diocese offers programs to enhance married life. To learn about these programs, watch the weekly bulletin.

## let us pray together

### with the Church today

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you.

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.

### with the pope in February: comfort for the afflicted

That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and the marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

## in both parishes

### christian initiation

Please pray for our **catechumens**. They are **officially-welcomed** members (albeit not yet full members) of the household of faith. **Ralph Mohler** and his son **Bryant** of Bremen St Mary, and **Jennifer Palmer** of St Bernadette, have publicly ratified their desire to become baptized members of the Catholic Church and are preparing for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Learn their names so you can pray for them. Find out who they are so you can make them feel welcome.

### the catholic times

You can still sign-up for *Catholic Times*. For a minimum donation of only \$17 (parish rate) you will receive the weekly news of what's happening in the Catholic world. Use the envelope provided in your February packet, or simply write your name and "Catholic Times" on a plain envelope, make your check payable to the parish, and drop it into the collection basket. As an evangelization tool, Bishop Campbell encourages all Catholic households in the diocese to receive and read our diocesan newspaper, the *Catholic Times*. Come enjoy "A journal of Catholic life in Ohio".

### getting to know a very good school ... that teaches the Catholic faith

Two opportunities that you might not want to miss:

- **St Bernadette School Open House**, on Sunday, Feb 26, from noon-2 PM, provides you the opportunity to tour the building, meet the staff, and receive registration and financial assistance information.
- **"K for a Day"**, on Friday, Mar 3, from 8:30-11 AM, is a time for kindergartners and their parents to join St B kindergarten class and get the feel for a great program.

### some other ways to support your parish

You can support your parish with **gifts of cash, appreciated assets, real estate, retirement plans, life insurance and even a trust or bequest in your will**. Designate St Mary Bremen or St Bernadette (or another non-profit Catholic entity) to benefit from your gift knowing that these gifts are invested in ways that are faithful to Catholic teaching. For donors age 70½ and older, the IRA Charitable Rollover is permanent law. Under this provision, these donors can transfer up to \$100,000 from their IRA to an endowment fund at The Catholic Foundation. The transfer is made free of federal income tax and the gift qualifies for the donor's required minimum distribution. Should you have questions or need assistance, contact The Catholic Foundation. They can help you take advantage of these opportunities in support of your beloved organizations. They can be reached at (614) 443-8893.

## at St Mary parish

### Mass intentions at st mary

Sunday, Feb 19 8:30 AM for the people of the parish  
 Tuesday, Feb 21 8:20 AM Hugh Messerly  
 Sunday, Feb 26 8:30 AM for the people of the parish

## sunday at Mass at bremen st mary

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sun, Feb 19 8:30 AM	Joe Young	Reagan & Spencer Conrad	Neil Boch, Dismas Schmelzer, Cathy Young	Joe Young family	Joe Young
Sun, Feb 26 8:30 AM	Susan Foltz	Caden & Cody Fyffe	Wyatt Borah, Susan Foltz, Leo Kunkler Sr	Catherine Noll, April Schmelzer	Damian Schmelzer

### st vincent de Paul at st mary bremen

For people in a financial jam, the season of need seems to go on throughout the year, especially when it gets really cold out. So, the **St Vincent de Paul Society in Bremen** takes up a collection after Mass on the first Sunday of the month, every month. New members are always welcome. For information, call Angi Skinner at (740) 438-0027.

## at St Bernadette parish

### Mass intentions at St Bernadette

Saturday, Feb 18 4 PM for the people of the parish  
 Sunday, Feb 19 11 AM for the people of the parish  
 Monday, Feb 20 8:20 AM Hank Schweizer  
 Wednesday, Feb 22 8:20 AM Chuck Beiter  
 Thursday, Feb 23 6 PM Dolores Dill  
 Friday, Feb 24 8:20 AM Wilford & Loretta Beiter  
 Saturday, Feb 25 4 PM Carl Aglio  
 Sunday, Feb 26 11 AM for the people of the parish

### sunday at Mass at st bernadette

	Lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
Sat, Feb 18 4 PM	Jennifer Spiegel	Gus & Olivia Spiegel, Cady Tipple	Susan Garrett, Joyce Guenther, Lee Guinan	Kathy Kehnast, Shelia Taylor, Kathy Wagner
Sun, Feb 19 11 AM	Amy Woo	Collin & Emma McCrady, Caroline Messerly	Terry Carpenter, Nancy Griffith, Ben Peters	Anna Sevigny, David Shonk, Mary Jane Vajen
Sat, Feb 25 4 PM	Bob Christy	Mallory, Mason & McKenzie Ortiz	Angie Christy, Marguerite Grimm, Denise McGuire	Teresa Scarpitti, Craig Shaw, Mickey Steyaert
Sun, Feb 26 11 AM	John Hartig	Ashlyn & Brennan Quaintance, Jack Tencza	Teresa Hartig, Jim & Rita Merk, Jean Robertson	Becky Wickham, Amy Woo

### 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** in Bremen, on Saturday, Feb 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.

## in the diocese of columbus

### catholic youth summer camp

Catholic Youth Summer Camp is Ohio's one week-long, residential high adventure camp for students entering grades 6-12. Activities typically include jet skis, water tubing, paintball, blobbing, high

ropes, archery tag, zip lining, rock climbing, giant swing, and mountain boarding. 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. This is especially valuable for young people who are not now receiving other catechesis as well as to reinforce catechesis for those who are. Go to [www.cysc.com](http://www.cysc.com) for information and to register for 2017 dates:

- high school sessions in the weeks of June 11, 18, 25, & July 2;
- middle school sessions in the weeks of July 9, 16, 23, & 30.

Registration is open now.

## **happily ever after ... despite the rough spots**

Come to a Marriage Encounter weekend and learn ways to use your marriage's ups and downs to deepen your love for each other and for God. Why not **try a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend**? The next weekend in central Ohio is Apr 21-23. For information or to register, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www.wmcecolumbus.org](http://www.wmcecolumbus.org).

## **sunday evening Mass**

Holy Family Church, 584 West Broad St, Columbus, will begin offering an **8 PM Sunday Mass** in English on March 5 to better coincide with many people's work schedule. Contact the parish office at (614) 221-4323.

## **male & female He created them: complementarity & intimacy in marriage**

All married couples are invited to the diocesan celebration of World Marriage Day on Sunday, Feb 26, from 1-4 PM at Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E N Broadway, Columbus. Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers will search Sacred Scripture and Church teaching to examine **what God teaches us about the differences between authentic male and female spirituality**. He will explore how to enhance the intimate relationship of husbands and wives. A **holy hour for marriage** will follow his talk. There is no charge for the event but space is limited. RSVP at <http://familylife.colodioc.org> or (614) 241-2560.

## **men's conference**

This **big event coming in February** you won't want to miss. At next Saturday's 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. Put it on your calendar now. Men will meet on Feb 25 with a theme of **"Into the Breach – Call to Battle"** at the Ohio Expo Center at the Ohio fairgrounds in Columbus.

## **times to retreat**

### **vocation to be a sister**

The **Dominican Sisters of Peace** invite single, Catholic women, ages 18 to 45, to attend a **"Come and See"** discernment retreat designed to **explore contemporary Dominican life**. Experience Dominican prayer and community with the sisters and reflect on God's call. The retreat happens from 4:30 PM Friday, Mar 10, until noon on Sunday, Mar 12, at the sisters' motherhouse in Columbus. For information, call or text Sister June Fitzgerald at (570) 336-

3991 or email [jfitzgerald@oppeace.org](mailto:jfitzgerald@oppeace.org). Participants may register online for the retreat or request a form. Some travel assistance is available.

## **a women's silent retreat**

Women of the Columbus diocese are invited to come away during this Lenten season for a week-end, to **disconnect from the cyber world and connect with God** at a silent retreat for women from Mar 3-5 at St Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E Broad Street, Columbus. Sponsored by the Catholic Laywomen's Retreat League, the retreat will begin Friday evening and end Sunday at noon. Fr Al Naseman, CPPS will be the retreat master. A member of the Cincinnati Province of the Precious Blood order, Fr Naseman has been leading retreats for 25 years. Prior to that he taught in three Precious Blood seminaries. He will give four conferences on **"Reflections on Lent from the Book of Ecclesiastes."** The fee of \$140 will cover six meals and a private room. For information, email [retreatleague@gmail.com](mailto:retreatleague@gmail.com) or call Sharon Gehrlach, CLRL secretary, at (614) 882-1946. Registration will close Feb 20.

## **and another women's silent retreat**

**"The Seven Deadly Sins vs Life to the Full"** is the theme of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's annual Women's Silent Retreat, to be held Mar 31-Apr 2, from 5:30 PM Friday to noon Sunday, at the St Therese Retreat Center in Columbus. Presenter is **Father Charles Shonk, OP**. Event donation is \$115; registration deadline is Mar 22; \$50 is due with registration, balance due at start of event. Visit [www.dccw.colodioc.org](http://www.dccw.colodioc.org) or contact Mickey McCormick at (614) 228-8601 or [mmccormick@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:mmccormick@columbuscatholic.org) for information.

## **the pilgrimage season**

### **to our lady of consolation**

A pilgrimage to Carey, Ohio, to the Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation happens on Wednesday, May 3. Meet at the US 37 Truck Stop at 8:30 AM or at the St Bernadette parking lot at 7 AM. Cost is \$25 and lunch may be purchased at the cafeteria. Paid reservations are due by Monday, April 3. Make checks payable and send to Margaret Kronenbitter, 2700 Wayne Ridge Rd, Zanesville, OH 43701. For information, call Ann Messerly at (740) 654-3447 or Rita Merk at (740) 654-3255.

### **to medjugorje**

A pilgrimage to Medjugorje happens from Monday, Oct 23 to Friday, Nov 3, led by Cindy Lane and accompanied by Fr Stash Dailey. Cost is \$2,625 inclusive double occupancy. An informational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Mar 15, at the Holy Family Parish Office at 6:30 PM. Contact Cindy Lane at [clane18@columbus.rr.com](mailto:clane18@columbus.rr.com) or (614) 361-1042 for details.

### **to fatima and lourdes**

Fr Stash Dailey, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Columbus, invites you to join him on a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes from June 19-30, **celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima**. For details, contact Liz Grinder at the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office at (877) 276-7279 or [lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net](mailto:lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net) or go to [www.lourdes-pilgrimage.com](http://www.lourdes-pilgrimage.com). Reservation deadline is Mar 15.

## to the holy land

Have you considered adding a **new dimension of understanding regarding Christian history and the life of Jesus**? Fr David Schalk and hosts Aimee and David Walton invite you on a life-changing pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Israel. Experience the places where Jesus walked, lived, taught, and performed miracles. Mass is celebrated daily at various holy sites, including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site of our Lord's crucifixion and tomb. This spiritual journey happens from October 17 to 26. Cost is \$4149 per person with meals, fees and tips included. For information, contact Aimee Walton at waltonisraelpilgrimage@gmail.com or (740) 225-6136.

## to italy

Fr Jeff Rimelspach, former pastor of St Mary Bremen, will lead a pilgrimage to Italy from Oct 2-14. The trip will include visits with daily Mass to **Venice, Bologna, Assisi, Cortona, San Marino, Rome, the Vatican**, and the island nation of **Malta**. Brochures are available at the parish office or by contacting Fr Rimelspach at St Margaret Church, 1600 N Hague Ave, Columbus, OH 43204 or jrimelspach@msn.com. This is a great **opportunity to visit many holy places in Italy**. And it is a great time of year to go.

## the holy season of Lent

### parish missions

**St Mary of the Assumption Parish** in Lancaster invites you to their parish mission, presented by Fr Thomas Blau OP, on **the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church**. The Mission will be offered Monday through Thursday, Mar 6-9, at 7 PM in the church. Tuesday's session will also include the celebration of the Lord's mercy in the sacrament of Confession.

**St Mark Catholic Church** presents Elizabeth Ficocelli at 7 PM on Mar 6-8. Her topics are: talk #1 – A Journey in Grace from Non-Catholic to Catholic Evangelist, talk #2 – From Burden to Joy: The Sacrament of Reconciliation in a Way You've Never Experienced It, talk #3 - Discovering, Living and Sharing Our Mission.

### lenten morning of reflection

Join Sister Louis Mary Passeri for the Sts Peter and Paul Retreat Center's sponsored talk: **"I Thirst (John 19:28) for Your Love."** Come and pray and reflect on this loving relationship between God and ourselves on Saturday, Mar 18, from 9 AM-noon at the center located at 2734 Seminary Rd in Newark. The cost of \$20 includes continental breakfast. Register by phone (740) 928-4246 or visit [www.stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.com](http://www.stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.com)

### lenten retreat: overshadowed by the Holy Spirit

The Franciscan Sisters TOR invite you be **immersed in the Holy Spirit at their Lenten retreat** on Saturday, Mar 25, from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. The retreat includes Mass, adoration, lunch, talks, and testimonies, and happens at Our Lady of Sorrows Monastery in Toronto, Ohio. Registration is required by Monday, Mar 13.

Suggested donation is \$25. Register online at [www.franciscansisterstor.org/lenten-retreat-2017/](http://www.franciscansisterstor.org/lenten-retreat-2017/) or call (740) 544-5542 ext 112.

## 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. Nothing is eaten 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.

## guidance for our prayer

### liturgical antiphons for this week

#### entrance antiphon

*Psalm 13*

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.  
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord  
who has been bountiful with me.

#### responsorial antiphon

*Psalm 103*

The Lord is kind and merciful.

#### communion antiphon

*Psalm 9*

I will recount all your wonders,  
I will rejoice in you and be glad,  
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

or *John 11: 27*

Lord, I have come to believe  
that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God,  
who is coming into this world.

### God's word at sunday Mass

*Sunday, Feb 19,* Leviticus 19:1-18 Psalm 103

*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday* 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 **Matthew 5:38-48**

*Sunday, Feb 26,* Isaiah 49:14-15 Psalm 62

*8<sup>th</sup> Sunday* 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 **Matthew 6:24-34**

### God's word during the week

*Mon, Feb 20* Sirach 1:1-10 Ps 93 **Mark 9:14-29**

*Tues, Feb 21* Sirach 2:1-11 Ps 37 **Mark 9:30-37**

*Weds, Feb 22* 1 Peter 5:1-4 Ps 23 **Matthew 16:13-19**

*Thurs, Feb 23* Sirach 5:1-8 Ps 1 **Mark 9:41-50**

*Fri, Feb 24* Sirach 6:5-17 Ps 119 **Mark 10:1-12**

*Sat, Feb 25* Sirach 17:1-15 Ps 103 **Mark 10:13-16**

### saints to celebrate and prayers to offer

*Tues, Feb 21* St Peter Damian

*Wed, Feb 22* The Chair of St Peter the Apostle

*Thurs, Feb 23* St Polycarp



# The Surprising Way Saint John Understood the Mass

According to the title of one of his books, Scott Hahn believes the Mass is

## **The Lamb's Supper, the Mass as Heaven on Earth.**

That is, to say the least, a stretch. We usually don't think about it that way. But sometimes we need to stretch, to look more deeply into what it is we do when we worship God at Mass, when we come into communion with the one who died for our sins and that we may have life. Hahn finds a way in, through a refreshed reading of the Book of Revelation.



Our parishes distributed 100 copies of *The Lamb's Supper* at Christmas time. Quite a number of people said that reading this book opened their eyes to **the Mass in a whole new way**. Some asked for an opportunity to explore this mystery further.

So let's do that for Lent. Here's the plan:

**Every Thursday during the Season of Lent** (that's Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and Apr 6), let's gather for the 6 PM Mass (or come one of those weeks at 5:30 for Confession too). Then we can repair to the Mary Good Center for supper, a very light and brief and Lenten kind of supper with **soup and bread**. No soft drinks, no condiments, no dessert ... but a special supper, none the less. Soon after 7 PM Father Kessler will guide those who attend in learning about and discussing several aspects of **this startling Biblical way of thinking about the Mass**. People might bring along their copy of *The Lamb's Supper* and a New Testament. Hahn's book is not required reading, but it is available at Amazon. **The Book of Revelation is ... a peculiar book**, a book with which we all need guidance. But it is the word of God and guides us on the way to the Truth. These Lenten Thursdays will conclude with prayer before 8:30 PM.

Everyone is welcome. But we need to know how many are coming — for two different reasons: How much soup do we need? a few cups or a few gallons? And exploring such a text as St John's Book of Revelation requires **some sustained learning**, with one week building on the previous weeks. This takes a committed effort, but it is do-able. **To register**, please call (740) 654-1893 and tell Kathy you are coming (or leave a message). And please invite a friend.

Oh, and by the way, the painting at the left is by Hans Memling (1440-1494). It is one panel of a large altarpiece at the Sint-Janshospitaal, Bruges. It shows St John the Evangelist on the Isle of Patmos, writing the Book of Revelation. The evangelist's trance takes in a rather comprehensive overview of the strange goings on in this wonderful book. This painting is reproduced on the cover of Professor Hahn's book.

And also, by the way, we will spend a little time in one of our Thursdays looking at what the painting helps us to see.

## St Bernadette School Can Certainly Be Affordable

There is money out there for tuition assistance for children attending or hoping to be able to attend our Catholic school. Read on. Here are four sources of substantial financial aid: one is a full scholarship; three others are substantial financial assistance. And if you try all of those without success, let's continue the conversation. Where there is a will, there is a way.

- **EdChoice Expansion Scholarships** are income-based vouchers available for Ohio families from the Ohio Department of Education. Students whose families meet the income eligibility requirements (eg: family of 4, income \$49,200) can attend St Bernadette School next fall at no cost to parents, thanks to scholarships available for kindergartners, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. This is an extraordinary opportunity for single parents, one-income homes, fixed-income households, and working families. Every family is encouraged to explore this possibility. Contact the school office for information.
- **Diocesan Tuition Assistance** applications must be completed on-line at [www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com). File your 2016 taxes early, as that information is required on your application. All applications must be submitted and verified by Mar 15.
- **Local Tuition Assistance** uses the diocesan application mentioned above. Local assistance will be awarded based on the prioritized list generated by the diocese. (This does not refer to your parish subsidy).
- **Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union** will award \$35,000 in Catholic education scholarships. Online applications are at <http://www.ohiocatholicfcu.com> before Friday, Mar 3. To become a member, visit <http://ohiocatholicfcu.com> or call (888) 696-4462.

## Lent Is Coming. So, What's the Point?

Is it a time of spiritual spring-cleaning? Well, sort of. But it has a context. It is a time to get back on track, but the important thing is to recall what the track is.

### Prayer, Fasting, and Giving Alms Are the Activities

The Lenten practices are usually identified as prayer, fasting, and giving alms. On Ash Wednesday, the gospel at Mass is a little passage from the Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus talks about them (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18).

When the Lord said some things in his Sermon on the Mount about how we should conduct ourselves when we pray, fast, and give alms, he was talking to Jews. His message wasn't "I want you Christians to do these three things." It was more like "I know you Jews do these three things. When you **do, do them right so that they will be pleasing to God.**" In fact, he was pointing out that **these are the things that people who are trying to do God's will do.** It is the attitude with which they do them that **will make all the difference.**

So praying, fasting, and alms giving are not just Lenten activities. They aren't just Catholic activities either. They are things that people who want to please God do. What Jesus says about them is that we should **do them in a way that is not just about getting the attention of other people**, who will then say, "Isn't she (or he) good! See how she (he) pleases God by prayer/fasting/giving alms!" Jesus wants us to go ahead and do what we need to do to please God, but keep the right attitude when we do it.

But that **not letting "the right hand know what the left hand is doing"** (Matthew 6:3) is a little tricky for Catholics. **We do things communally.** And we do religious things externally as well as internally. We come together to have ashes imposed on our heads on Ash Wednesday, leaving a mark that we are not ashamed for all the world to see. All together we abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent, and we know it is alright to talk about how we are doing **being temporary vegetarians.** We go to special services during Lent without any need to sneak in. And anyone who is attentive can tell that we are doing something special for Lent. What would Jesus say? I think his message to us for Lent is to **remember why we do what we do**, whether it is the special Lenten things or the year round Christian things.

-Father Kessler

### confessions & weekday Mass nearby

These times sometimes change, though, so be sure to call ahead!

	<i>Bremen St Mary</i>	<i>Lancaster St Bernadette</i>	<i>Lancaster St Mary</i>	<i>Lancaster St Mark</i>	<i>Sugar Grove St Joseph</i>	<i>Circleville St Joseph</i>	<i>Logan St John</i>
<i>Monday</i>		8:20 AM	7 AM	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM	8 AM
<i>Tuesday</i>	8:20 AM		9 AM	8 AM	NOON	7 AM	8 AM
<i>Wednesday</i>		8:20 AM	7 AM	6 PM	8 AM	9 AM	9 AM
<i>Thursday</i>		6 PM	9 AM	8 AM	NOON		
<i>Friday</i>		8:20 AM		8 AM	8 AM	9 AM	8 AM
<i>Saturday</i>		<i>1<sup>st</sup> Saturday only 9 AM Mass</i>				10 AM	9 AM
<i>confessions</i>	<b>Sunday @ 8AM</b>	<b>Saturday @ 3 PM &amp; @ 8:30 am on 1st Saturday only</b>	Saturday @ 4 PM	Saturday @ 5:30 PM	½ hour before Mass	Saturday @ 4 PM	Saturday @ 4 PM

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