

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)



Christ Chasing Satan Away

A small detail from the Three Temptations of Christ

a large fresco in a cycle of the life of Christ, painted (1481-1482) by Sandro Botticelli (1445-1510).

The temptation is the scene of today's gospel reading with which the Church introduces Lent by paralleling this victory in temptation with the failure in temptation of Adam and Eve. In the whole painting, after forty days of fasting and three severe temptations, Jesus finally identifies Satan (who had been wearing the cloak of a hermit), drives him away, and is then ministered to by three angels, who have brought bread and wine to break his now completed fast. In the other reading, St Paul tells us that

Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned. ... Adam ... is the type of the one who was to come. ... For if by the transgression of the one, the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many.

The Sistine Chapel, the Vatican

The 1st Sunday of Lent

MARCH 5, 2017

Belonging to a Parish

It makes sense that Holy Mother the Church expects that we will worship in the parish where we live. There are exceptions: military people, college students, people visiting or caring for relatives, and the like. But we all live somewhere and have neighbors. We go to the Church there, with them. If you have moved to another place (or from another place), for more or less all of the foreseeable future, you should register in the parish in the new place. If you are going to be a practicing Catholic, you will most likely practice your faith with the people who live nearby and in the church that is nearby. We are not like some Christian denominations for whom membership in a congregation is permanent and is a matter of taste preferences. Our permanent membership is in the Catholic Church; parish membership needs to be registered with the parish where we live. Our “home parish” is important to us, but if we don’t live there anymore it is not likely to be our actual place of worship on anything like a regular basis. For purposes of baptism, first Communion, confirmation, marriage, sacramental sponsorship, burial, and such, the parish where we have registered and where we ordinarily worship is the one that counts. This has been the practice of the Catholic Church for a very long time, but it only becomes obvious when people grow up, establish a home, and sometimes have to move to another place. Whether it is here or there, register in the parish where you worship on Sundays!

Our Parishes

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

AT ST BERNADETTE PARISH

<http://stbernadetteparish.net>

MARK SCARPITTI (740) 438-3970
deacon dcn.mark@frontier.com
JEFF CARPENTER (740) 681-9918
deacon carpenter.277@osu.edu
ANN ESSMAN (740) 653-9347
pastoral minister aessman001@att.net
STEVE HUBER (740) 654-3137
facilities coordinator shuber57@yahoo.com
LIZ LATORRE (740) 243-1872
liturgical music lizlаторre@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
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 businessmstbparish@yahoo.com
KATHY KEHNAST (740) 654-1893
pastoral coordinator stbernparish@yahoo.com
ANGIE & KENT KERNS (740) 654-2588
religious education kwkerns@gmail.com
JULIE & CHASE STALFORD (740) 808-7294
youth ministry maristellaspirit@gmail.com

AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

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

Saint Bernadette School is located at
1325 Wheeling Rd, (740) 654-3137
Lancaster, OH 43130-8701
www.stbernadetteschool.com
stbernlan@cducation.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.



praying this week

with the Church today

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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 March: support for persecuted Christians

That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

God's word at sunday Mass

Sunday, Mar 5, Genesis 2:7-3:7 Psalm 51
1st Sunday in Lent Romans 5:12-19 **Matthew 6:24-34**
Sunday, Mar 12, Genesis 12:1-4 Psalm 33
2nd Sunday in Lent 2 Timothy 1:8-10 **Matthew 17:1-9**

God's word during the week

Mon, Mar 6 Lev 19:1-18 Ps 19 **Matt 25:31-46**
Tues, Mar 7 Isaiah 55:10-11 Ps 34 **Matt 6:7-15**
Weds, Mar 8 Jonah 3:1-10 Ps 51 **Luke 11:29-32**
Thurs, Mar 9 Esther C:12-25 Ps 138 **Matt 7:7-12**
Fri, Mar 10 Ezech 18:21-28 Ps 130 **Matt 5:20-26**
Sat, Mar 11 Deut 26:16-19 Ps 119 **Matt 5:43-48**

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. They have publicly ratified their desire to become baptized members of the Catholic Church and are preparing for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Today our catechumens, **Ralph Mohler** and his son **Bryant** of Bremen St Mary, and **Jennifer Palmer** of St Bernadette, accompanied by their godparents and the other catechumens of our diocese who will be joining the Church at the Easter Vigil, are being sent forth from our parishes to St Paul Church in Westerville. Bishop Campbell will preside at the Rite of Election when they will inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect. This rite marks the beginning of the period of final, more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation, during which the elect will be encouraged to follow Christ with greater generosity. Lent is the season of their final preparation to become baptized members of the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

And in the coming weeks, **Dick Usilton** of St Bernadette Parish will make a profession of his Catholic Faith, be confirmed, and receive Holy Communion. He has been preparing for entry into the Church on a separate schedule because of scheduling problems. His sacramental reception is different because he is already a baptized

Christian. But your prayers for all four are still very much appreciated.

walking with purpose

The next 9-week session of **Walking With Purpose**, our women's faith sharing group, begins Wednesday, Mar 15, from 9:30-11 AM at the St Bernadette Mary Good Center and Thursday, Mar 16, from 7-8:30 PM at the St Mary Spirit Center. To register for Wednesday mornings, contact Amy Woo at acfaching@yahoo.com or (414) 882-1863. To register for Thursday evenings, contact Gina McCauley at ginammcauley@icloud.com. New participants and friends are welcome. Come to as many sessions as your schedule allows.

what you gave in February

St Bernadette	Feb 5	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26	Totals
Weekly support of parish	7,255	8,270	4,628	4,744	24,897
educational support	336	125	230	440	1,131
Catholic Times	223	647	133	118	1,121
Electronic funds transfer	2,548	156	156	156	3,016
Total given to the parish	10,362	9,198	5,147	5,458	30,165
Black & Indian Missions	40	126	6	30	202
St Vincent de Paul	975	0	0	0	975
Total sent beyond the parish	1,015	126	6	30	1,177
Bremen St Mary	Feb 5	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26	Totals
weekly	4,299	1,559	1,572	1,136	8,566
Catholic Times	36	196	121	17	370
Electronic funds transfer	0	0	0	0	0
Total given to the parish	4,335	1,755	1,693	1,153	8,936
Black & Indian Missions	0	100	35	0	135
St Vincent de Paul	606	100	280	20	1,006
Total sent beyond the parish	606	200	315	20	1,141

at st bernadette parish

time for spring cleaning

On Saturday and Sunday, Mar 18 & 19, the **St Vincent de Paul Society truck** will be at St Bernadette Church to accept donations of clean clothing and usable household items. Thank you for your continued support.

Mass intentions at st bernadette

Saturday, Mar 4 4 PM for the people of the parish
 Sunday, Mar 5 11 AM for the people of the parish
 Monday, Mar 6 8:20 AM Showman & Spizzirri families
 Wednesday, Mar 8 8:20 AM Paul Gallagher
 Thursday, Mar 9 6 PM John Schmelzer family
 Friday, Mar 10 8:20 AM Carolyn Maddox
 Saturday, Mar 11 4 PM for the people of the parish
 Sunday, Mar 12 11 AM for the people of the parish

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.

ministry at Mass at st bernadette

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
Sat, Mar 4 4 PM	Terry Carpenter	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Rosalie DeFillippo Kathy Kehnast Jim & Becky Kuhn	Sandy Landefeld Brad Rider
Sun, Mar 5 11 AM	Tara Craaybeek	Clara & Susan Craaybeek, Eve Darfus	Nancy Griffith Ben Peters Larry Sanford	Teresa Scarpitti Anna Sevigny David Shonk
Mon 8:20	Mary Jane Vajen	Carley Matson, Lexi Utz	Patricia Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast
Weds 8:20	Bob Christy	Becca Fuller, Joey Mannella	Angie Christy	Mary Jane Vajen
Thurs 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Mitchell Ortiz, Gunner Robertson	Rosalie DeFillippo	Paul Lonergan
Fri 8:20	Jim Merk	Brianna Hilyard, Sarah Woo	Jim Merk	Rita Merk
Sat, Mar 11 4 PM	Patrick Gins	Isabelle Gentile, Gus & Olivia Spiegel	Terry Carpenter Susan Garrett Marguerite Grimm	Joyce Guenther Lee Guinan Denise McGuire
Sun, Mar 12 11 AM	Dennis Forquer	Brooke, Bryaon & Zachary Vogel	Pat Dreyer Jim & Rita Merk Jean Robinson	Mary Jane Vajen Becky Wickham

at st mary parish

Mass intentions at st mary

Sunday, Mar 5 8:30 AM for the people of the parish
 Tuesday, Mar 7 8:20 AM Agnes Smith
 Sunday, Mar 12 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, Mar 5 8:30 AM	Paul Kunkler	Brooke Holt, Isaac Schmelzer	Irene Kunkler, Dismas Schmelzer, Jim Schmelzer	Paul Kunkler Family	Jim Schmelzer
Sun, Mar 11 8:30 AM	Linda Qualls	Sydnee Rogers, Nicole Terry	Tyna Schmelzer-Fox, Angi Skinner, Karen Wolfe	James Noll Jr Family	Joe Young

st vincent de paul at 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.

in the diocese of columbus

bishop campbell on ecology and opioids

All are invited to Bishop Campbell's presentation, "God's Creation, Our Common Home," where he will reflect on the encyclical *Laudato Si*, which speaks of our relationship with God through creation. He will discuss the social, environmental, and moral issues facing all creatures of God, and will speak about the great suffering caused by the opiate addiction crisis. Join with Bishop in exploring, embracing, and acting on the true beauty and grandeur of God's gift to us. Presentations will be held:

- Monday, Mar 13, 7-9 PM, St Francis de Sales Parish, Newark
- Tuesday, Mar 14, 7-9 PM, St Peter Parish, Columbus
- Thursday, Mar 16, 7-9 PM, Bishop Ready High School, Columbus
- Saturday, Mar 18, 9:30-11:30 AM, Notre Dame High School, Portsmouth

All are invited to attend. For information, contact Ellen at the Office of Development and Planning at (614) 241-2550 or eweilbacher @ columbuscatholic . org.

from the chair

Bishop Campbell takes your questions from 5 - 6 PM on Tuesday, March 7, during his live monthly call-in show. Call St Gabriel Catholic Radio at (614) 459-4820 to ask your question about the Catholic faith and growing in holiness

catholic record society meeting

The Winter quarterly meeting of the Catholic Record Society happens today, Sunday, Mar 5, at 2 PM at Sacred Heart Parish in Columbus. James Kraus will be the speaker. He is the son of noted church architect Robert J Kraus. James attended St. Charles Preparatory School and College Seminary, where he later taught, and the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, and the Angelicum in Rome. He taught theology, English literature and many other subjects for twenty years. He served as pastor of St Timothy Church for five years. After being laicized, he served as Administrator of Brown Memorial Home in Circleville and Jenkins Memorial in Wellston. In retirement, he has continued his ministry to the sick and elderly and translated scriptures for *A People's Breviary*. Mr Kraus will speak on "**The Churches of Robert J Kraus.**" Robert John Kraus was born in Akron, Ohio in 1887 and died there in 1972 at age 85. He was the architect for numerous churches built in the Diocese of Columbus under the direction of Bishop James Hartley. After the talk, there will be a brief reception and business meeting. For information contact Chairman Mike Finn at fcoolavin @ aol . com or (614) 268-4166.

spirit of hope gala

Catholic Social Services hosts the Spirit of Hope Gala on Saturday, Mar 11, at 6:30 PM at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. The annual event benefits Catholic Social Services' fourteen 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, call (614) 221-5891 or visit www.colscss.org.

silent retreat for men

The Catholic Layman's Retreat League sponsors a Palm Sunday Silent Retreat for Men from 5:30 PM on Friday, April 7, until noon on Sunday, April 9, at the St Therese Retreat Center in Columbus. Director is Fr Ricardo Pineda CPM and the theme is *Fight the Good Fight: Forming Men for Spiritual Battle*. Cost is \$160. For information call Dave Ball at (614) 753-1696 or Bob Muetzel at (740) 743-3848.

natural family planning

Individuals in health professions and couples with NFP experience are encouraged to attend a free diocesan **NFP Teacher Training** at Mt Carmel East in Columbus on Tuesday evenings, Mar 7-Apr 4. Participants will learn to communicate effectively the basics of fertility, charting, and family planning to engaged and married couples. Want information? Interested, but the class dates don't work? Contact Jennifer, Diocesan NFP Coordinator, at (614) 241-2560 or jfullin@columbuscatholic.org.

sunday evening Mass

Holy Family Church, 584 West Broad St, Columbus, will begin offering an **8 PM Sunday Mass** on Mar 5 to accommodate many people's work schedule. Contact their parish office at (614) 221-4323.

the holy season of lent

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.

way of the cross

On all the Fridays of Lent at **7 PM St Mary and St Bernadette parishes will both pray the Way of the Cross**, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. You could join in. And bring your kids. There are few better ways for them to learn the mystery of the Cross. And for you to let it sink in.

rice bowl

This year's theme for Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl is "**Encounter Lent.**" This Lent, we answer the call to serve the "least of our brothers and sisters" through Rice Bowl. It offers Catholics in the US a way to connect with our brothers and sisters around the world. This Lent, CRS invites us to **pray** with our families, **fast** in solidarity with those who hunger, learn about the challenges of poverty overseas, and **give sacrificial contributions** for those in need. Visit the Rice Bowl website at <http://orb.crs.org>.

k of c fish fry

Lancaster **Knights of Columbus** will fry fish on the Fridays of Lent (Mar 10, 17, 24, 31, and Apr 7). 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 KofC hall is at 343 East Walnut Street.



special events this lent

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. Scott Hahn finds a way in, through a refreshed reading of the Book of Revelation in his book. 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 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. For information call Kathy at (740) 654-1893.

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.

a 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

a lenten retreat:

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/ or call (740) 544-5542 x 112.

lenten tv programming

Learn more about your Faith during this special time of the year. EWTN will have movies, documentaries, children's programming, and more to **help you to grow in your spiritual life**. Get program details at www.ewtn.com.

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. Participants may register online for the retreat or request a form. Some travel assistance is available.

a very fine school

st bernadette school can 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, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th 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. 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.

st bernadette school book fair

Hundreds of children's books, as well as religious books, adult best-sellers, and unique cookbooks, will be available for immediate purchase at the St Bernadette Scholastic Book Fair in the school library during the week of Mar 13-17 (Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM-3:15 PM). Parishioners are invited to shop at a **special preview event offered before and after Masses** on Mar 11 & 12. Plan to come check out all the new titles. Proceeds help to build classroom collections and to support the school library.

some more special times

developmental disabilities month

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) facilitates the implementation of the Pastoral Statement of US Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities by calling for **inclusion of people with disabilities in the life of the Church and society**. Many of NCPD's helpful resources can be found online at www.ncpd.org.

40 days for life

From Mar 1 to Apr 9, 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 in Columbus. Participants are asked to volunteer for one-hour shifts and sign a statement of peace. For details, visit Greater Columbus Right to Life at www.40daysforlife.com/columbus.

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	
<i>Tuesday</i>	8:20 AM			9 AM	8 AM	NOON	7 AM	
<i>Wednesday</i>		8:20 AM		7 AM	6 PM	8 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	
<i>Saturday</i>		<i>1st Saturday only 9 AM Mass</i>					10 AM	
<i>penance services</i>	Sunday, Apr 9 3 PM	Sunday, Apr 2 3 PM	Tuesday, Apr 4, 7 PM					
<i>confessions</i>	Sunday @ 8 AM	Saturday @ 3 PM & @ 8:30 am on 1st Saturday only	Saturday @ 4 PM	Saturday @ 5:30 PM	½ hour before Mass	Saturday @ 4 PM	Saturday @ 4 PM	

Lent: a Time to Go to Confession

You might have expected me to skip Confession in my weekly back page of the bulletin this year. I promised to talk about the liturgy every week. But Confession is part of the divine liturgy, an essential part. After all, the liturgy is made up of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, and the seven sacraments. Confession is a sacrament and thus a component of the liturgy. Sometimes it is prayed individually, just me and the priest. Sometimes we gather in a communal liturgy first, at a Penance Service. But then we go to pray individually, but still ritually in our individual confession. And whether any liturgy is prayed by just two persons or by two thousand, it is the Church at prayer, in the prayer that Jesus gave to his Church.

For a lot of reasons many Catholics have largely given up Confession. The Lord has not. The Church still teaches and will continue to teach that confessing our sins individually to the priest is **the default way of having our faults forgiven**. Not long ago a serious Catholic asked me why we don't just come together and all pray for our forgiveness, then have a group absolution of our sins. After all, the person said, that can be done in an emergency—like on the deck of a sinking ship. An important reason the priests don't do that in ordinary circumstances is that it is forbidden. It would be sin for the priest to do so.

It is uncomfortable to admit that we have sinned. Always has been. But it's more so in the era in which we take creature comforts so seriously. The priest can't do anything to make Confession easy. Well, I can promise to be available for it whenever anyone needs it. And I can promise to be nice to people when they come to confession, I won't bite anyone's head off, because I shouldn't and because I am in the same boat. I too need to get to confession, and I too find it uncomfortable — until I get there. I always seem to come away wondering why I had been uncomfortable and thinking I am really glad that I went to confession.

A priest with a blog—and an attitude—Fr. John Zuhlsdorf, recently listed some things to do to make the process go smoothly for us sinners. Some of them may be rather obvious; some a lot of people have forgotten; some simply tell us what we need to do; some could make the whole process smoother and less uncomfortable. So, maybe they will help you. Here they are.

Fr. Z's 20 Tips For Making A Good Confession. We should ...

1. Examine our consciences regularly and thoroughly.
2. Wait our turn in line patiently [in silent prayer].
3. **Come at the time confessions are scheduled, not a few minutes before they are to end.**
4. Speak distinctly but never so loudly that we might be overheard.
5. State our sins clearly and briefly without rambling.
6. **Confess all mortal sins in number and kind.**
7. Listen carefully to the advice the priest gives.
8. **Confess our own sins and not someone else's.**
9. Carefully listen to and remember the penance and be sure to understand it.
10. **Use a regular formula for confession so that it is familiar and comfortable.**
11. **Never be afraid to say something "embarrassing"... just say it.**
12. Never worry that the priest thinks we are jerks... he is usually impressed by our courage.
13. Never fear that the priest will not keep our confession secret... he is bound by the Seal.
14. **Never confess "tendencies" or "struggles"... just sins.**
15. Never leave the confessional before the priest has finished giving absolution.
16. **Memorize an Act of Contrition.**
17. Answer the priest's questions briefly if he asks for a clarification.
18. Ask questions if we can't understand what he means when he tells us something.
19. Keep in mind that sometimes priests can have bad days just like we do.
20. Remember that priests must go to confession too ... they know what we are going through.

*Father John Zuhlsdorf's blog is at <http://wdtp.com/blog/fr-zs-20-tips-for-making-a-good-confession/>.
He says that it is "slavishly accurate liturgical translations & frank commentary on Catholic issues."*

Here is **what Pope Benedict told pilgrims** at St. Peter's in Rome about the beginning of the Church's "**Lenten journey towards Easter.**"

The Christian life is itself a constant journey of conversion and renewal in the company of the Lord, as we follow him along the path that leads through the Cross to the joy of the Resurrection. **The primary way by which we follow Christ is by the liturgy**, in which his person and his saving power become present and effective in our lives. In the Lenten liturgy, as we accompany the catechumens preparing for Baptism, we open our hearts anew to the grace of our rebirth in Christ. This spiritual journey is traditionally marked by the practice of **fasting, almsgiving and prayer**. The Fathers of the Church teach that these three pious exercises are closely related: indeed, Saint Augustine calls fasting and almsgiving the "**wings of prayer**", since they prepare our hearts to take flight and seek the things of heaven, where Christ has prepared a place for us. As this Lent begins, let us accept Christ's invitation to follow him more closely, renew our commitment to conversion and prayer, and look forward to celebrating the Resurrection in joy and newness of life.

Have a holy Lent!

— Father Kessler

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