

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)



Transfiguration of Christ

Painted (1455) in oil on wood by Giovanni Bellini (1426-1516)

the scene of today's gospel

Jesus, accompanied by Moses and Elijah, is seen in glory on Mount Tabor by the stunned disciples, Peter, James, and John

Museo Nazionale di Capodimonte, Naples

The 2nd Sunday of Lent

MARCH 12, 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 Kehnst 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

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

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

with the pope in March: support for persecuted Christians

He asks us to pray that persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

God's word at sunday Mass

Sunday, Mar 12, Genesis 12:1-4 Psalm 33
2nd Sunday in Lent 2 Timothy 1:8-10 **Matthew 17:1-9**
Sunday, Mar 19, Exodus 17:3-7 Psalm 95
3rd Sunday in Lent Romans 5:1-8 **John 4:5-42**

God's word during the week

Mon, Mar 13 Daniel 9:4-10 Ps 79 **Luke 6:36-38**
Tues, Mar 14 Isaiah 1:10-20 Ps 50 **Matt 23:1-12**
Weds, Mar 15 Jeremiah 18:18-20 Ps 31 **Matt 20:17-28**
Thurs, Mar 16 Jeremiah 17:5-10 Ps 1 **Luke 16:19-31**
Fri, Mar 17 Genesis 37:3-28 Ps 105 **Matt 21:33-46**
Sat, Mar 18 Micah 7:14-20ⁱ Ps 103 **Luke 15:1-32**

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. Last Sunday 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, were sent forth from our parishes to St Paul Church in Westerville. Bishop Campbell presided at the Rite of Election when they inscribed their names in the Book of the Elect. This rite marked 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.

irish alumni golf outing 2017

Alumni of St Mary, Bishop Fenwick and Fisher Catholic High Schools play at Pleasant Valley Golf Course, Coonpath Road, Lancaster, on Saturday, June 10, at 9 AM shotgun start, \$150 per team, 3 player scramble format. Make checks payable to A One Events, LLC. Mail with entry to: A One Events, PO Box 961, Lancaster, OH 43130, and include player name, class year, email or phone. For information contact Mike Wolshire at (740) 687-0055 or mike@miller-lewis.com.

catholic foundation scholarships

The Catholic Foundation announces that its Online Scholarship Application Period is now open. This year, 22 students in the Columbus diocese will receive awards from scholarship funds stewarded by the Foundation. In an effort to streamline the process, the Foundation has made it easier than ever to apply with a complete listing of available scholarships, qualifications, and applications on its website. Of the 22 scholarships available, 10 require a submitted application based on the aforementioned criteria. The scholarship deadline is April 7, and the recipients will be notified in May.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on the criteria established by donors who created the funds to support gifted and deserving students by assisting them with the costs of their education. Donors often establish scholarship funds to honor or memorialize friends, teachers, family members, or other loved ones. Since 2007, The Catholic Foundation has awarded over \$287,000 in scholarships empowering 94 young people to continue their academic and vocational studies. With continued generosity of donors who share this dedication to education, the Foundation will continue to support students as they answer God's call. For detailed information and the full list of scholarships, call the Foundation at (614) 443-8893.

about the catholic foundation

The Catholic Foundation's mission is to inspire giving and assist donors to provide for the long-term needs of the 23-county Diocese of Columbus. The Catholic Foundation fulfills our mission by seeking donors to establish endowment funds designed to support current and future needs and by distributing earnings according to diocesan priorities and donor intent. It is one of the oldest and largest Catholic foundations in the country, distributing nearly \$100 million in the diocese since 1985. For additional information about The Catholic Foundation, visit www.catholic-foundation.org



at st bernadette parish

ministry at Mass at st bernadette

	Lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
Sat, Mar 11 4 PM	Patrick Gins	Isabelle Gentile, Avee & Drew Solt	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
Mon 8:20	Mary Jane Vajen	Joey Mannella Mitchell Ortiz	Patricia Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast
Weds 8:20	Bob Christy	Brianna Hilyard Sarah Woo	Angie Christy	Mary Jane Vajen
Thurs 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Becca Fuller Jack Gentile	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan
Fri 8:20	Jim Merk	Gunner Robertson Lexi Utz	Jim Merk	Rita Merk
Sat, Mar 18 4 PM	Marguerite Grimm	Gus & Olivia Spiegel, Cady Tipple	Bob & Angie Christy Rosalie DeFillippo	Sandy Landefeld Brad Rider Shelia Taylor
Sun, Mar 19 11 AM	John Hartis	Anna Hartig, Ashlyn & Brennan Quaintance	Tara Craaybeek Kathy Kehnast Teresa Hartig	Ben Peters Larry Sanford Amy Woo

Mass intentions at st bernadette

Saturday,	Mar 11	4 PM	the people of the parish
Sunday,	Mar 12	11 AM	the people of the parish
Monday,	Mar 13	8:20 AM	Chuck Beiter
Wednesday,	Mar 15	8:20 AM	Bill Mooney
Thursday,	Mar 16	6 PM	JJ McGee
Friday,	Mar 17	8:20 AM	deceased of the Seigny Family
Saturday,	Mar 18	4 PM	the people of the parish
Sunday,	Mar 19	11 AM	the people of the parish

volunteer opportunity

Jillian's Dinner, a St Bernadette fundraiser held each October for an individual or family in need, has openings for volunteers to chair committees at the dinner and raffle. For information, call Marlene Clark at (740) 687-5709 or Kathy Wagner at (740) 687-0504.

time for spring cleaning

Next 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.

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.

at st mary parish

Mass intentions at st mary

Sunday, Mar 12 8:30 AM for the people of the parish

Tuesday, Mar 14 8:20 AM Lucille Tobin
Sunday, Mar 19 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 12 8:30 AM	Linda Qualls	Sydnee Rogers, Nicole Terry	Tyna Schmelzer-Fox, Angi Skinner, Karen Wolfe	James Noll Jr Family	Joe Young
Sun, Mar 19 8:30 AM	Jeanne Schmelzer	Reagan & Spencer Conrad	Pam Redding, Damian & Deborah Schmelzer	Maurice Schmelzer Family	Damian Schmelzer

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

volunteers needed

Looking for a way to serve in 2017? Engaged couples in our diocese need your help. Volunteer to serve on the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Team as a speaker and presenter. Present virtues-based topics to engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony. If you are currently married, and have wisdom and experience to share, you already qualify. For information, contact Kathleen Hall at khall@columbuscatholic.org or (614) 241-2560.

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.

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.

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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.

face forward

Face Forward announces the launch of its first mobile App. Developed for the **Vocations Office** of the Columbus Diocese, this free app contains valuable information for Catholics right at their fingertips. The Face Forward mobile app includes features such as the Verse of the Day, Pray for Priests, Care for the Common Home, Saint of the Day and the Face Forward Blog. The Office of Vocations recognizes the importance of being able to reach young Catholics where they are, and that place is on their mobile devices. 73% of kids between the ages of 5-19 years old are connected within an hour of waking up. Face Forward wants to give them something meaningful to read when they power up. Discerning a vocation and what God is calling you to do can be a long journey full of many questions. Having easily accessible information is invaluable to the discernment process. This new app provides just that. Face Forward will continue to add fresh and relevant content to the app daily with the goal of getting users to come back day-to-day for new offerings. With the repeat visits and usage of the app, the hope is that users will gain more love, knowledge and understanding about the Catholic faith and clarity on what God is calling them to do. The Face Forward app is available now in the iTunes store. Face Forward is a program of the Office of Vocations that allows for interaction with the youth in the Columbus Diocese and provides platforms for communication, events and opportunities to learn more about the Catholic faith and a life in vocations. There are currently over 12,000 people within the Face Forward community. For information about the Face Forward App, contact Anne Harkin at (614) 787-2377 or anne.harkin@mj2marketing.com.

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>.

2017 crs rice bowl family challenge

In his 2017 Lenten Message, Pope Francis challenges us to use these 40 days **to build a "culture of encounter."** One way to do just that is to participate in the 2017 CRS Rice Bowl Family Challenge. Pick up a CRS Rice Bowl from your parish and the family challenge form. Each day you do the suggested activity, check that day's completion box in the upper left hand corner. Add up the number of daily CRS Rice Bowl activities the family accomplishes during Lent and mail the family form by Apr 28 to the Office for Social Concerns, 197 East Gay St, Columbus, OH 43215. Families will be included in a random drawing for one of ten fair trade baskets. This project is in partnership with the diocesan Marriage & Family Life and Social Concerns offices.

k of c fish fry

Lancaster **Knights of Columbus** will fry fish on the Fridays of Lent (Mar 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 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.

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](http://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/lenen-retreat-2017/](http://www.franciscansisterstor.org/lenen-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](http://www.ewtn.com).

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](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).

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 today**. 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](http://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](http://www.40daysforlife.com/columbus).

fisher catholic bid o' luck

You are invited! The 36th Annual Fisher Catholic Bid O' Luck Dinner Auction happens Saturday, April 29, 2017. This year's theme is Moonlit Masquerade, which promises to be an evening of elegance and splendor. Attend a gourmet meal prepared by Cheers & Lakeside Chalet, a full selection of beverages, and fabulous items in the Silent and Grand Auctions. Raffle tickets will be available to win the Pot-of-Gold prizes (one \$7,500 and five \$500 payouts). For information, contact Kellie Shonk at (740) 654-1231, or [fishercatholic . org/bid-o-luck](http://fishercatholic.org/bid-o-luck).

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	8 AM	NOON	8 AM
<i>Wednesday</i>		8:20 AM	7 AM	6 PM	6:30 PM	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>		1 st Saturday only 9 AM Mass				10 AM	9 AM
<i>penance services</i>	Sunday, Apr 9 3 PM	Thursday, Mar 9, 8:30 am Sunday, Apr 2 2 PM	Tuesday, Apr 4, 7 PM	Tuesday, Mar 21 7 PM	Monday, Mar 27 7 PM	Sun, Mar 19 4 PM	Monday, Mar 20, 7 PM Tuesday, Mar 21 10:30 AM
<i>confessions</i>	Sunday @ 8AM	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

Marriage and Remarriage

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

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

Even the Catholic Church knows there are times when a divorce may be necessary: To protect a spouse or a child from abuse, for instance. But it is essential to understand what that means: The effect of a divorce is not to end a marriage, the union of a man and a woman joined together by God. Jesus said: “So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate” (Matthew 19:6). A divorce ends what the state of Ohio (or whatever government organization) has joined together. It ends the civil contract, which is an agreement about property, inheritance, residence, regulation of the upbringing of children, etc. It doesn't end what God has joined together.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you have questions about this process, please ask me or any priest or deacon. We'll be happy to help.

— *Father Kessler*



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