

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



Jesus' Easter Discourse to His Apostles

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

John 20:21-23, from today's gospel reading

*one of 26 panels from the **Maestà** (1308–1311) of **Duccio di Buoninsegna** (about 1255–about 1318), painted in tempera and gold on wood (84 in × 156 in)
Museo dell'Opera Metropolitana del Duomo, Siena*

The 2nd Sunday of Easter

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017

our parishes

FATHER THOMAS KESSLER (614) 634-0499
pastor wthomaskessler@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 (740) 215-3894
maintenance chair
TYNA FOX-SCHMELZER (614) 371-7702
religious education

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 businessmtbparish@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; those parents 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.

Remember, Catholics who marry outside the Church have left the sacramental life and need to change that situation before receiving the other sacraments.

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.

belonging to the Church

If you actually live in the neighborhood of one parish and go to church in another parish for a good reason, register where you worship. But don't go shopping for a parish home the way you might decide which grocery serves you best, has the best produce or the best prices. Our commitment to the Lord and his Church must never be reduced to a matter of consumer shopping. It is more a matter of blooming where you are planted. Our permanent membership is in the Catholic Church; parish membership needs to be registered with the parish where we worship each Sunday. 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!

praying with the Church

at Mass today

God of everlasting mercy,
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,
that all may grasp and rightly understand
in what font they have been washed,
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.
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 april : for young people

Pope Francis asks us to pray
that young people may respond generously to their vocations
and seriously consider offering themselves to God
in the priesthood or consecrated life.

the regina coeli

Queen of Heaven rejoice, alleluia:
For He Whom you did merit to bear, alleluia,
Has risen as He said, alleluia. Pray for us to God, alleluia.
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, Who gave joy to the world
through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
grant we beseech Thee, that
through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His mother,
we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

world day of prayer for vocations

The purpose of the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations** is to publically fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:38; Luke 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations

- to the **ordained ministries** (priesthood and diaconate),
- to the **religious life** in all its forms (male and female, contemplative and apostolic),
- to **societies of apostolic life**, to secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and
- to the missionary life, in the particular sense of *mission "ad gentes"*, to the nations.

prayer for vocations

God our Father, we thank you
for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom
as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons.
Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and
courageously to your call.
May our community of faith support
vocations of sacrificial love in our youth.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

God's word ... at sunday Mass

Sunday, Apr 23, Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 118
2nd Sunday of Easter 1 Peter 1:3-9 **John 20:19-31**
Sunday, Apr 30, Acts 2:14-33 Psalm 16
3rd Sunday of Easter 1 Peter 1:17-21 **Luke 24:13-35**

during the week

Mon, Apr 24 Acts 4:23-31 Ps 2 **John 3:1-8**
Tues, Apr 25 1 Peter 5:5-14 Ps 89 **Mark 16:15-20**
Weds, Apr 26 Acts 5:17-26 Ps 34 **John 3:16-21**
Thurs, Apr 27 Acts 5:27-33 Ps 34 **John 3:31-36**
Fri, Apr 28 Acts 5:34-42 Ps 27 **John 6:1-15**
Sat, Apr 29 Acts 6:1-7 Ps 33 **John 6:16-21**

in both parishes

christian initiation

Keep praying for the new members of the household of faith, **Ralph Mohler** and his son **Bryant** of Bremen St Mary, and **Jennifer Palmer** of St Bernadette. They were baptized and confirmed and received Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil at St Bernadette Parish at the Great Easter Vigil liturgy of the Lord's Resurrection.

And pray especially today for **Dick Usilton** of St Bernadette Parish who is making profession of his Catholic Faith, being confirmed, and receiving Holy Communion today. He prepared 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. Please welcome all of our new members.

We Need a Bookkeeper

St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary Parishes are seeking a **part-time**, full charge **bookkeeper** to perform such accounting procedures as cash receipts, accounts payable, payroll, budget preparation, account reconciliation, financial reports, and data entry. The bookkeeper's work will ordinarily need to be performed **in the parish offices during morning and early afternoon office hours.**

A candidate should have an associate's degree in accounting / finance and/or 2+ years accounts payable & payroll experience. Completion of bookkeeping and accounting courses is a very big plus. Computer skills should include a strong working knowledge of Word, Excel and Quickbooks. This position requires both an understanding of basic accounting procedures and attention to the accuracy of accounting / financial reporting information. There is also a need for confidentiality, promptness, and good general office procedures.

Interested candidates should e-mail resume, salary requirements and references to the business office at stbernparrish@yahoo.com.

the church in central and eastern europe

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in over 20 countries, many of which are still struggling to recover in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week.

operation rice bowl

Please remember to **return your Rice Bowls** in the collection.

planning to marry?

Couples wishing to receive the **sacrament of Matrimony** should contact the pastor **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 the preparation.

let us adore Him

Spend a **holy hour** with our Lord in the presence of his Blessed Sacrament in either of our parish churches. Or spend a **few holy minutes**. We try to keep both churches open all through the daylight hours. Anybody can come, any time. Perhaps you could.

parish family lunch

You and your family are invited to the St Bernadette and St Mary Parish Family Lunch next Sunday, Apr 30, **at noon in the St Bernadette Parish Hall to meet and share a meal with the members of our two parishes**. Our **Parish Family Lunch** begins right after the 11 AM Mass at St Bernadette. Arrive at Mass a little early to set up and reserve your place. Bring a tablecloth and table settings as well as a dish to pass. Last names beginning with A-J supply a meat or main dish, K-T donate a salad or side dish, and U-Z contribute a dessert. Drinks (coffee, tea, lemonade, water) will be provided. Sign-up sheets are located at all church entrances. For information, to reserve your spot, or to sign up to bring a dish to pass, contact Kathy at St Mary at (740) 569-7929 or at St Bernadette at (740) 654-1893. See you there!

at st bernadette parish

ministry at Mass at st bernadette

	Lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
Sat, Apr 22 4 PM	Bob Christy	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Angie Christy Susan Garrett Joyce Guenther	Lee Guinan Mary Steyaert Kathy Wagner
Sun, Apr 23 11 AM	Amy Woo	Collin & Emma McCrady, Diana Woo	Pat Dreyer Patrick Gins Kathy Kehnast	Jim & Rita Merk Mary Jane Vajen
Mon 8:20	Mary Jane Vajen	Brianna Hilyard, Carley Matson	Patricia Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast
Weds 8:20	Bob Christy	Becca Fuller, Joey Mannella	Angie Christy	Mary Jane Vajen
Thurs 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Jack Gentile, Sarah Woo	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan
Fri 8:20	Jim Merk	Mitchell Ortiz, Lexi Utz	Jim & Rita Merk	
Sat, Apr 29 4 PM	Teresa Scarpitti	Mallory, Mason & McKenzie Ortiz	Rosalie DeFillippo Marguerite Grimm Kathy Kehnast	Jim & Becky Kuhn Denise McGuire
Sun, Apr 30 11 AM	Tara Craaybeek	Clara & Susan Craaybeek, Eve Darfus	Nancy Griffith John & Teresa Hartig	Ben Peters Jean Robinson Larry Sanford

st bernadette school open house

St Bernadette School holds an Open House today, Sunday, Apr 23, from noon until 2 PM. Meet the staff, **tour the building**,

enjoy refreshments, and inquire about enrollment possibilities and financial assistance.

blood drive

Our next St Bernadette blood drive will be Saturday, May 20, from 9AM-2PM in the parish hall. Lunch and cupcakes will be served. To help make up for drives cancelled by winter weather, please attend if you can. Appointments at [www . redcross . org](http://www.redcross.org) or Joyce Guenther at (740) 974-5040. Thank you.

school advisory board

There are two open seats on the St Bernadette Advisory Board for next Fall. The term is three years. If you are interested, please submit a simple bio, or pick up a bio/nomination form from the school office. Please submit nominations as soon as possible.

Mass intentions at st bernadette

Monday, Apr 24 8:20 AM John & Ann Muetzel
 Wednesday, Apr 26 8:20 AM Emma Aaron
 Thursday, Apr 27 6 PM Louise Young
 Friday, Apr 28 8:20 AM William & Mary Keith

The Church requires the pastor to offer Sunday Mass for good of the people of the parish.

st vincent de paul 5th sunday collection

Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society will take **up a collection at the church doors** on Apr 29 and 30, the 5th Sunday this month. Please be generous. The society helps the needy in the Lancaster area. They operate on income from their store and from your donations.

at st mary parish

holy communion

Cohen Barringer, Kennedy Barringer, Katie Harmon, Ethan Schmelzer, Veronica Springer, and Ava Wilkinson will receive Holy Communion for the first time at the 8:30 AM Mass next Sunday. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

vacation church school

Vacation Church School happens this summer at Schmelzer's Grove on the evenings of June 26-30, with exact times to be announced. An organizational meeting is scheduled for Sunday evening, April 23, at St Mary in Bremen at 7 PM. Anyone interested in helping should attend the meeting or contact Angie Kerns at (740) 654-2588.

60th anniversary celebration

David and Esther Strohmeier invite friends, family, and parishioners to their 60th wedding anniversary celebration from 1-5 PM on Sunday, Apr 30, in the St Mary Parish Hall in Bremen.

st vincent de paul at bremen

For people in a financial jam, the season of need seems to go on throughout the year. 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.

Mass intentions at st mary

The Church requires the pastor to offer Sunday Mass for good of the people of the parish.

Tuesday, Apr 25 8:20 AM Leo & Helen Nash

sunday at Mass at bremen st mary

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sun, Apr 23 8:30 AM	Barb Van Fossen-Cook	Caden & Cody Fyffe	Neil Boch, Leo Kunkler, Barb Van Fossen-Cook	Leo Kunkler Sr family	Nikki Schmelzer
Sun, Apr 30 8:30 AM	Karen Wolfe	Brooke Holt, Jillian Wilkinson	Wyatt Borah, Dismas Schmelzer, Karen Wolfe	Catherine Noll April Schmelzer	Jim Schmelzer

in the deanery

to walk with purpose

The 9-week session of **Walking With Purpose**, our women's faith sharing group, has begun. Contact Amy Woo at acfachting@yahoo.com or (414) 882-1863 for information. New participants and friends are welcome. Come to as many sessions as your schedule allows.

fisher catholic bid o' luck

You are invited to the 36th annual Fisher Catholic Bid O' Luck Dinner Auction happening next Saturday, Apr 29. 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.

irish alumni golf

Alumni of St Mary, Bishop Fenwick and Fisher Catholic High Schools play at Pleasant Valley Golf Course, Coonpath Rd, on Saturday, June 10, at 9 AM. Cost is \$150 per team, 3 player scramble format. Send your check payable to A One Events, LLC, with entry to: A One Events, 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.

in the diocese of columbus

retrouvaille

You can save your marriage! **Has your marriage become unloving or uncaring?** Your relationship grown cold, distant? Thinking about a separation or divorce? Already separated or divorced but you wish to try again? The Retrouvaille program may help you. Retrouvaille of Columbus will be sponsoring its next program April 28-30 at the St Therese Retreat Center in Columbus. The program consists of a weekend experience and follow-up sessions. All inquiries are confidential. For more details or to register go to HelpOurMarriage.com or call (800) 470-2230.

service & retreat opportunity

The Dominican Sisters of Peace are sponsoring a four-day service and retreat opportunity for single Catholic women between the ages of 18 to 45 who are discerning a possible call to religious life or lay ministry in the church. This experience is scheduled for May 18-21 in Columbus and includes prayer, service, community, and fun. Participants will live together in a small community house and serve at an ecology farm—Shepherd's

Corner--and at a local soup kitchen. Group prayer and reflection time will explore the connection between service and justice. Space is limited; free room and board provided. Some travel funds to Columbus are available on a need basis. Visit <https://oppeace.org/pray-serve-reflect/> to register, or for information contact Sr Pat Dual, OP by phone or text at (614) 216-7688 or email at pdual@oppeace.org.

catholic church tour

Imagine making a holy pilgrimage this Easter season. What would it be like to explore the holy places and churches found right here in Ohio? Join Father Joshua Wagner and hundreds of other pilgrims on the **annual Easter pilgrimage**, "The Catholic Church Tour." This year they will be exploring the churches and shrines of Western Ohio (Maria Stein), of Perry County, and of downtown Columbus. Energize the Easter Season. Get information and reserve your spot immediately by going to CatholicChurchTour.com.

natural family planning

Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods are effective for postponing or achieving pregnancy and are completely natural—no pills, patches or devices. **Good for the body and great for the soul.** Engaged and married couples are invited to learn NFP by attending a diocesan NFP Class Series. Dates and locations are online at familylife.coltsdioc.org; contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560 or familylife@coltsdioc.org for information

a principal and a teacher for St John Logan

Logan St John School, a PreK-6 Catholic School, has an opening for the **position of principal** for the 2017/18 school year. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic, well versed in the Catholic Faith and have (or be working toward obtaining) an administrator's license, and excellent communication skills, leadership and management abilities.

St John is also looking for candidates for a **preschool lead teacher** for its pre-k and pre-school programs beginning August 2017. The lead teacher will work under the supervision of the principal, and should possess professional competency in the areas of planning and preparation, classroom environment and instruction. Position is part-time, with class being conducted each weekday morning. High-school diploma is required.

For both positions a current FBI/BCI background check and proof of attendance at a **Protecting God's Children seminar** are required. Salary is commensurate with candidate's education and experience. Submit materials including a cover letter of interest, resume, educational philosophy, a letter from the candidate's current pastor speaking to membership and participation in the Catholic Church, and a list of five references to the Office of Catholic Schools, 197 E Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215. Contact Jeanne Gissel at (614) 221-5829 or jgissel@cdeducation.org with questions.

marriage preparation volunteers

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.

sunday evening Mass

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

face forward

Developed for the **Vocations Office** of the Columbus Diocese, Face Forward app contains valuable information for Catholics right at their fingertips. It includes such features as the **verse of the day, pray for priests, care for the common home, saint of the day and the Face Forward blog**. Face Forward give young folks something meaningful to read when they power up. Discerning 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 each 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 about 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.

franciscan sisters open house

The Franciscan Sisters TOR invite you to their annual **Open House and May Crowning** on Saturday, May 20, at their monastery, 369 Little Church Road, Toronto, Ohio. This family fun day includes hay rides, a petting zoo, an inflatable slide, face painting, indoor and outdoor games, a vocation talk for two different age groups, and more. They will also have a free lunch from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM, an outdoor May Crowning at 1:30 PM, and an indoor May Crowning and Vigil Mass at 3:45 PM. No reservations necessary; donations are gratefully accepted. For information, visit www.FranciscanSistersTOR.org or call (740) 544-5542.

celebrate two great moms

Honor the Blessed Mother and your own favorite earthy mother or mother figure in your life by attending a special Marian event at St

Peter & Paul Retreat Center in Newark on Saturday, May 13, the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Fatima. Elizabeth Ficocelli will present "**Spiritual Warfare in the Age of Mary**", recounting key visits of Our Lady over the past two centuries and how she is preparing us to fight the evil we see rampant in the world today. The event runs from 9 AM until noon and includes a continental breakfast and a book signing. Registration is \$20 and can be made by contacting www.stpeterandpaulretreatcenter.com or calling (740) 928-4246.

divine mercy sunday in logan

St John Church in Logan will be holding **devotions for Divine Mercy Sunday** today, April 23, from 2-4 PM, which will include a movie about the history of Divine Mercy, exposition & adoration, confessions, and the chaplet of Divine Mercy. All are welcome. For information, call (740) 385-2549, ext 4.

diocesan senior citizens celebration

On Tuesday, June 6, **senior citizens will be honored** at St Joan of Arc Church in Powell. Bishop Campbell will celebrate Mass at 10:30 AM, and a luncheon will follow. Registration is \$10; send a check payable to the Office for Social Concerns, Catholic Diocese of Columbus, 197 E Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For information, call (614) 241-2540 or email socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org. Registrations are needed by June 1.

et cetera

contribution envelopes can travel

If you happen to attend **Mass at the other parish**, put your home parish collection envelope into the basket. It will be sent to that parish to be included in their collection count. Thank you for giving generously ... wherever you are!

centennial of our lady at fatima

This Mass takes place on Saturday, May 13, at 10 AM at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Columbus. Cathedral rector Fr Michael Lumpe will celebrate the Mass, Msgr Frank Lane will deliver the homily. Prior to the Mass a rosary will be prayed beginning at 9:30 AM. All are invited to this special celebration in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. Pope Francis has granted a plenary indulgence for specific Fatima centennial celebrations; this Cathedral occasion would be one of three ways to receive the plenary indulgence. For information about this Mass call the Cathedral at (614) 224-1295, or visit www.saintjosephcathedral.org.

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	6:30 PM	9 AM	9 AM
<i>Thursday</i>			9 AM	8 AM	NOON		
<i>Friday</i>		8:20 AM		8 AM	8 AM	9 AM	8 AM
<i>Saturday</i>		<i>1st Saturday only 9 AM Mass</i>				10 AM	9 AM
<i>confessions</i>	Sunday @ 8AM	Thursday @ 5:30 PM 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

What “Ecumenical” *Doesn’t* Mean

Thank God for ecumenism! It has meant an opportunity for us Catholics to appreciate Christians of other ecclesial communities and for them to appreciate those of us in the Church. It has meant **an opportunity to break down barriers of that bigotry** that has often assailed us, both Catholics and Protestants, as well as Orthodox. It has meant an opportunity to work together on some things that are appropriate. In marriages it has meant the opportunity to recognize **the things that spouses from different communions can learn from each other** ... about reading the Scriptures, about singing hymns, about dutiful attendance at church, etc.

But ecumenism is **not the same thing as indifferentism**. That is the notion that differences in religious faith don’t matter. You still hear it from time to time: “We all believe the same thing.” Well, we don’t.

Have I just thrown a wet blanket over ecumenism? Over a false ecumenism, yes, I hope so. But facing up to the challenge as well as beauty of ecumenism is not something false. It is **a matter of honesty**. Ecumenism is not something that we do as free agents or freelance believers. It is an effort of the Church. It is an effort to find our common ground—and to be clear about where we haven’t reached common ground. It must **never be a matter of compromise on matters of the faith**.

How does that play out in our ordinary lives? The clergy get to know each other. They share their awareness of the shape of the community. For very special occasions the communities get together—as communities, but not as independent individuals—to pray together. The charitable outreach is done jointly when that is feasible—as it is in the Bremen Community Food Pantry.

It is not appropriate for us to get together on every concern. This is not to deny the validity of the good things that can happen in ecumenical relations.

We don’t get together for worship on Sunday because we have **a profoundly different thing that we do at Sunday worship**. We Catholics celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass each Sunday, when a priest says the words of Jesus, actually changing the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ; and it happens! Our Protestant neighbors have some fine pastors, some undoubtedly dedicated and saintly persons, but they aren’t priests, they don’t—can’t—celebrate that sacrifice, and the bread and wine that is shared in Communion among them is not the Body and Blood of Christ. If the minister happens to have a strong sacramental sense, that doesn’t change the fact that it doesn’t happen. We have **seven sacraments, they were instituted by Christ, and they actually make the seven things they symbolize happen. We need them for our salvation**. This stuff isn’t just our ethnic heritage or a charming option for Christian believers. We need to be Catholics because we need what those sacraments do. It would be dishonest for a well-informed Catholic to pass over that difference in silence.

And we don’t get together for our teaching about our Christian faith. In the seminary and at the university in Rome, I had the privilege of studying under some very fine visiting Protestant scholars. Many of my theological books were written by Protestants. And yet I would not invite even the best of them to be **a teacher in our PSR program**; for that a **full Catholic faith is a necessity**. We don’t send our Catholic children to the Protestant ecclesial communions for their religious education; that is something that cannot be achieved ecumenically. Protestants have differences in faith which cannot be squared with our Catholic faith. We have **the reliable — and indispensable — teaching of the Pope and the bishops**. Does that matter for little kids? What would be wrong with sending them to Protestant catechesis where there might only be a lesson that Jesus loves the little children of the world? He sure does, and yet how the Bible is to be read and what our faith has to say about getting saved takes some profound turns in Protestantism, even as it is presented to the little ones.

The importance of our distinctly Catholic understanding of Christian faith shows up in some of the toughest issues, of the profoundest importance, in contemporary society. We Catholics have deeply held notions about sexuality, about marriage, and about human life, for instance, that simply are not shared by many of our Protestant neighbors. Or if they are shared, it has to do with the personal opinion of the individual Protestant believer and her pastor. That isn’t the way it works for us Catholics. We have the reliable teaching authority of the Pope and the bishops.

When **the ecumenical movement began to come alive in the Catholic Church with the second ecumenical Council of the Vatican (1962-1965)**, we Catholics got into the habit of speaking of our “separated brothers and sisters.” It’s too bad we have stopped using that phrase very often. Both parts of it are true: there is a separation which we can’t ignore; and yet we really are brothers and sisters in Christ. It is our job, not to whitewash the differences, but to work together when we can and to pray for the unity for which Our Lord prayed at the Last Supper: “That they all may be one.”

—Father Kessler

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