



Saints Peter and Paul, whose feast is Thursday

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year**  
**at Lancaster St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary**

June 25, 2017

# St Bernadette Parish

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

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

cover painting: **Apostles Peter and Paul**, oil on canvas, painted (ca 1592) by El Greco (1541-1614)

This painting's subject is the reconciliation between the two apostles who had been in disagreement, a fact shown by the joining of the hands, that intertwine without touching.

*The Hermitage, Saint Petersburg*

## our parishes

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

### at St Bernadette Parish

<http://stbernadetteparish.net>

MARK SCARPITTI (740) 438-3970  
deacon [den.mark@frontier.com](mailto:den.mark@frontier.com)

JEFF CARPENTER (740) 681-9918  
deacon [carpenter.277@osu.edu](mailto:carpenter.277@osu.edu)

ANN ESSMAN (740) 653-9347  
pastoral minister [aessman001@att.net](mailto:aessman001@att.net)

STEVE HUBER (740) 654-3137  
facilities coordinator [shuber57@yahoo.com](mailto:shuber57@yahoo.com)

LIZ LATORRE (740) 243-1872  
liturgical music [lizlаторre@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us)

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

STEPHEN KARNES (740) 654-1893  
bookkeeper [stbernbook@gmail.com](mailto:stbernbook@gmail.com)

KATHY KEHNAST (740) 654-1893  
pastoral coordinator [stbernparish@yahoo.com](mailto:stbernparish@yahoo.com)

ANGIE & KENT KERNS (740) 654-2588  
religious education [kwkerns@gmail.com](mailto:kwkerns@gmail.com)

JULIE & CHASE STALFORD (740) 808-7294  
youth ministry [maristellaspirt@gmail.com](mailto:maristellaspirt@gmail.com)

### at St Bernadette School

PAM ELTRINGHAM [peltring@cdeducation.org](mailto:peltring@cdeducation.org)  
principal

BARB HUBER [bhuber@cdeducation.org](mailto:bhuber@cdeducation.org)  
secretary

*Saint Bernadette School* is located at  
1325 Wheeling Rd, (740) 654-3137  
Lancaster, OH 43130-8701

[www.stbernadetteschool.com](http://www.stbernadetteschool.com)

[stbernlan@cdeducation.org](mailto:stbernlan@cdeducation.org)

# St Mary Parish

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

## 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.

## praying with the Church

### at Mass today

Father, guide and protector of your people, grant us an unfailing respect for your name, and keep us always in your love. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### with the pope in june : for national leaders

That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.

### with the pope in july : for lapsed christians

That our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life.

### God's word ... at sunday Mass

<i>Sunday, June 25,</i> <i>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday</i>	Jeremiah 20:10-13 Romans 5:12-15	Psalm 69 <b>Matthew 10:26-33</b>
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<i>Sunday, July 2,</i> <i>13<sup>th</sup> Sunday</i>	2 Kings 4:8-16 Romans 6:3-11	Psalm 89 <b>Matthew 10:37-42</b>
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### ... during the week

<i>Mon, June 26</i>	Genesis 12:1-9	Ps 33	<b>Matthew 7:1-5</b>
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<i>Tues, June 27</i>	Genesis 13:2-18	Ps 15	<b>Matthew 7:6-14</b>
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<i>Weds, June 28</i>	Genesis 15:1-18	Ps 105	<b>Matthew 7:15-20</b>
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<i>Thurs, June 29</i>	Acts 12:1-11	Ps 34	<b>Matthew 16:13-19</b>
	2 Timothy 4:6-18		

<i>Fri, June 30</i>	Genesis 17:1-22	Ps 128	<b>Matthew 8:1-4</b>
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<i>Sat, July 1</i>	Genesis 18:1-15	Luke 1	<b>Matthew 8:5-17</b>
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### 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.

### feast days this week

June 27 Saint **Cyril of Alexandria**, bishop & doctor of the church

June 28 Saint **Irenaeus**, bishop & martyr

June 29 Saints **Peter & Paul**, apostles

June 30 **The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church**

July 1 Saint **Junipero Serra**, priest

## in both parishes

### may they rest in peace

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Robert Benson of St Bernadette Parish and George Foltz of St Mary Parish. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

### parish family lunch

You and your family are invited to the St Bernadette and St Mary Parish Family Lunch today, Sunday, June 25, **at noon behind 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 and a tent/canopy for shade, if you have one. If it rains, we'll go into the Parish Hall. Meat (hot dogs, brats, hamburgers), buns, and drinks (soft drinks, lemonade, ice tea, water) will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. See you there!

### christian initiation

Please be thinking now about **who you are going to invite to join the Church in the coming year**.

### baby bottles

Thank you for participating in the PDHC's **Baby Bottle Campaign** to help local parents and would-be parents in need. Spare change from baby bottles goes a long way to continue offering free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, material assistance and life-affirming programs to strengthen families.

### peter's pence

This week, our collection includes Peter's Pence, which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Please be generous. For information, visit [www.usccb.org/peters-pence](http://www.usccb.org/peters-pence).

### take a fresh look at your marriage

Treat yourselves to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and enrich your lives together. Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones—and focus only on each other. The next weekend is Sept 15-17 in central Ohio. For information or to apply, contact Paul & Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www.wwmecolumbus.org](http://www.wwmecolumbus.org).

### has your address changed?

Inform the St Bernadette or Bremen St Mary parish office when the members of your household or your home, mailing, or email address changes. If you are a new parishioner you need to fill out a **new parishioner registration form** online.

### envelopes for youth

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

### bulletin deadline

**Bulletin notices** must be given to the parish office by 9 AM on the Friday that is one week prior to the Sunday you wish a notice to appear. For example, bulletin notices for the June 18 bulletin are due by 9 AM on Friday, June 9.

**Mass announcements** (when these are really necessary!) must be given to the parish office by 9 AM on Friday.

### vacation church school

St Mary's Vacation Church School happens this week at Schmelzer's Grove on the evenings of June 26-30. Catholic children from both parishes are invited ... no, make that urged, to attend. And so are any of their friends in other parishes. Anyone interested in helping should contact Angie Kerns at (740) 654-2588.

## at st bernadette parish

### st bernadette 2017 foundation grants

*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."*

*1 Peter 4:10*

St Bernadette Parish has been blessed with funding from our endowments stewarded by The Catholic Foundation. By God's varied grace we honor the many donors, whose charitable love for our faith and others is fulfilling the mission of our ministry through The Catholic Foundation.

### ministry at Mass at st bernadette

	lector	Servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion		
<b>Saturday, 4:00 PM</b>	Patrick Gins	Kendall Cox, Avee & Drew Solt	Tara Craaybeek Joyce Guenther	Sandy Landefeld Brad Rider	Teresa Scarpitti Mickey Steyaert
<b>Sunday, June 25, 11:00 AM</b>	John Hartig	Anna Hartig, Diana & Sarah Woo	Terry Carpenter Pat Dreyer	Nancy Griffith David Shonk	Becky Wickham Amy Woo
Monday, 8:20 AM	David Shonk	Kendall & Morgan Cox	Pat Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast	
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Gunner & Amelia Robertson	Angie Christy	Mary Jane Vajen	
Thursday, 6:00 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Diana & Sarah Woo	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan	
Friday, 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Joey Mannella & Hyde O'Rielley	Jim Merk	Rita Merk	
Saturday, 9 AM	Kara Tencza	Jack Tencza	Jim Merk	Rita Merk	
<b>Saturday, 4:00 PM</b>	Becky Kuhn	Samantha Kerns, Logan & Tori Loy	Bob & Angie Christy	Susan Garrett Marguerite Grimm	Jim Kuhn Kathy Wagner
<b>Sunday, July 2, 11:00 AM</b>	Amy Woo	Caroline Messerly, Addy Myers, Daniel Turner	Patrick Gins Ben Peters	John & Teresa Hartig	Jim & Rita Merk

This Spring we have received disbursements of \$11,000 from our school endowment and \$7,619 from the parish endowment. These funds are vital for cash flow in our parish. For information on ways your end-of-life estate planning can build our endowments, please visit catholic-foundation . org or call (866) 298-8893.

### Mass intentions at st bernadette

Monday, June 26 8:20 AM JJ McGee  
 Wednesday, June 28 8:20 AM Louise Mathias  
 Thursday, June 29 6:00 PM John J Bolster  
 Friday, June 30 8:20 AM John & Ann Muetzel  
 Saturday, July 1 9:00 AM Timothy Daugherty

The intention for Sunday Mass is the good of the people of the parish.

## at st mary parish

### summer square dances

Summer means square dancing at Schmelzer's Grove. Mark your calendars on the Sunday evenings of July 9 and Aug 13 from 7-9:30 PM. Admission is \$4 per person.

### Mass intention at st mary

Tuesday morning Mass will be celebrated for Louise Shumaker. The intention for Sunday Mass is the good of the people of the parish.

### st vincent de paul at bremen

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Bremen takes up a **collection after Mass on the first Sunday** of every month. **New members** are always welcome. Call Angi Skinner at (740) 438-0027.

### ministry at Mass at st mary

June 25 & July 2	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
<b>Sunday 8:30 AM</b>	Joe Young	Brooke Holt, Nicole Terry	Pam Redding, Joe & Cathy Young	Joe Young family	Joe Young
<b>next Sunday</b>	Susan Foltz	Spencer Conrad, Charles Schoenlaub	Susan Foltz, Jim Schmelzer, Tyna Schmelzer-Fox	James Noll Jr family	Jim Schmelzer

## in the diocese of columbus

### a ministry job opening opening

St Timothy Church is accepting resumes for a full-time coordinator of youth ministry. This person will be responsible for the religious formation of parish middle school and high school youth. The applicant must be a practicing Catholic in good standing in the Catholic Church; possess a bachelor's degree in religious education, youth ministry, theology, or the like; and have superior writing skills and oral communication, and excellent interpersonal skill to work with youth, parents, parish staff. Knowledge and love of the Catholic faith, professionalism, flexibility, communications and public relations skills are essential for this position. Job offer is contingent on background screening and completion of Protecting God's Children. Salary will be commensurate with education and

experience. Send a letter, resume and references to Rita Marie Feige, director of religious education, Saint Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus, OH 43220

### saint mother teresa award

**FOR CHARITY, COMPASSION AND SERVICE**

This new award recognizes those special women in our diocese who exemplify the life of Christ and the spirit of Mother Teresa: women who are strong in their Catholic faith, who are engaged and involved in their parish communities, and whose example of devotion and dedication is in the tradition and spirit of this holy and humble saint. The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will celebrate the contributions of these women on Aug 27 at 4:30 PM at Immaculate Conception Parish. For information about nomination, tables, or tickets, contact the DCCW Office at (614) 228-8601 or mjmccormick @ columbuscatholic . org. To

acknowledge a woman in your parish with your nomination, write about 250 words describing her spirituality and all the ways this woman demonstrates those unique attributes reminiscent of Mother Teresa's life and ministry. Essays must be received by Aug 8 at the DCCW, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215.

## project DAWN

It is no secret that there has been an overwhelming surge in opiate overdoses and fatalities within our communities. Mount Carmel Outreach and the Mount Carmel Mobile Medical Coach have joined forces with Project DAWN (**Deaths Avoided With Naloxone**), a community-based overdose education and Narcan (naloxone) distribution program. The Project DAWN program provides Narcan kits free-of-charge to those without health insurance and limited financial means. Narcan is a **safe medication that can reverse an overdose caused by prescription pain medication or heroin** and save lives. For information, call (614) 546-4200.

## men's silent retreat

The annual Catholic Laymen's Fall Silent Retreat will be held at St Therese Retreat Center from 6 PM on Friday, Sept 8, through noon Mass on Sunday, Sept 10. In reflection sessions, Fr Dave Pivonka, TOR, will lead men to appreciate the power of the Holy Spirit by developing his theme **To Have a Relationship with the Holy Spirit, His Mercy is Everlasting**. Cost is \$150. Make your reservation now and consider bringing a friend. Contact Charles Kielkopf at (614) 268-0175 or kielkopf.1 @ osu . edu.

## women's retreat

Walking with Purpose presents **Retreat & Refresh: A Day of Renewal for a Woman's Soul** at Sts Peter and Paul Retreat Center on Sunday, July 16, and Monday, July 17. Featured speaker will be Elizabeth Ficocelli. Prices are \$75 or \$95 for overnight semi-private or private room with breakfast and lunch, or \$50 for the day retreat including the two meals. RSVP by July 3 to Glenda Reynolds at (740) 974-7568 or g.reynolds15 @ yahoo . com

## furniture needed

Are you moving or downsizing? The Sts Peter and Paul Retreat Center needs your gently used furniture. They could use couches, tables, chairs, and dining sets. Contact them at (740) 928-4246 or info @ stspeterandpaulretreatcenter . org.

## 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.

# the bishop's annual appeal

## bishop's annual appeal 2017

**"LIVING THE GOSPEL IN FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY"**

The Bishop's Annual Appeal **has begun at St Bernadette and at St Mary**. It's time for us to do what we can to support the programs and ministries that benefit both our parishes and the wider community. The Appeal **supports our parish schools of religion and the education of our future priests and deacons, and many families in need of our help**. Your gift and your prayers will help to

make this year's appeal a success. Every contribution counts; every dollar that we raise over the stated goal will be returned to our parishes to benefit our communities directly. Last year St Bernadette pledged slightly over and collected slightly under the goal. Bremen St Mary pledged well over the goal and has received the rebate of \$4,947 from the diocese. So we know we can do this if, after thoughtful consideration and prayer, every one of us gives according to our ability. We are blessed with much; let us remember the needs of others. **If you have not yet been able to make a pledge, extra BAA envelopes are available in the church vestibules.**

Here are the results at our parishes after seven weeks (six weeks for the diocesan totals).

	St Bernadette	% of goal	Bremen St Mary	% of goal	Diocese of Columbus	% of goal
total households	452		130			
households participating	120	27%	49	39%		
amount pledged	\$ 35,880	85%	\$ 16,576	133%	\$ 5,750,306	88%
average gift	\$ 299		\$ 338			
total paid	\$ 17,160	41%	\$ 5,611	45%		
BAA goal	\$ 42,210		\$ 12,443		\$ 6,500,000	

## thank you from the bishop

Bishop Campbell has sent his congratulations and thanks to St Mary Parish in Bremen for going beyond its goal in the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The example of these parishioners inspires efforts to support those who are in great need, which builds upon a strong faith and has a lasting impact on the future.

## baa prayer

Heavenly Father, we are always thankful for all you have given us. We are especially grateful that you have sent to us your Son to be our Savior. That is the true Good News: that you love us and call us to yourself. Help us to live this Good News, this Gospel, in Faith, Hope, and Charity. Help us to respond generously to your love by sharing our material blessings for the good of all in our diocese. Send your Spirit to dwell in our hearts, so that all we do may give praise and honor to your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## more things to think about

### why marriage matters

Marriage does matter. After all, **we're all in this together**. As members of society, we count on each other every day to keep our commitments. We feel more secure when we can depend on others. Although marriage has changed a great deal, the benefits of marriage endure. Social science research confirms that marriage is an important social good that brings a wide range of positive outcomes for adults and children alike. At [www . foryourmarriage . org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org) you will discover that:

- On average, married people are better off financially.
- Marriage is associated with better health, sex, and safety for men and women.
- Children do better when they live with their own two married parents.

## safe environment reminder

A complete copy of the **parish safe environment policies and procedures**, including the diocesan policies and guidelines for parish youth ministry is available by calling either parish office.

All adults who have not previously attended a **Protecting God’s Children training session sponsored by the diocese** of Columbus are urged to do so. A schedule of training sessions can be found at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

Articles on **sexual abuse prevention** are available at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). All adults are encouraged to access this website monthly and read the articles. Contact information for **reporting suspected abuse of minors** is from the parish office.

## plan your family naturally

**Natural family planning (NFP)** uses modern scientific knowledge of fertility to allow married couples to safely and effectively achieve or postpone pregnancy. Today’s NFP is up to 99% effective and completely natural. The benefits of NFP go beyond family planning; for articles and to read one couple’s story visit [www.ForYourMarriage.org](http://www.ForYourMarriage.org). For information about NFP or to register for a diocesan NFP workshop, contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at 614/241-2560 or FLOMailbox @ colsdio . org.

## fortnight for freedom

Each year dioceses around the country arrange special events to highlight the importance of defending religious freedom. The Fortnight for Freedom is the special dedication of the two weeks from June 21—the vigil of the Feasts of St John Fisher and St Thomas More—to July 4, Independence Day.

Religious freedom is **our first, most cherished liberty** is a time when our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of **great witnesses who remained faithful even to death in the face of persecution by political power**: St Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St John the Baptist, Sts Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. To learn about the fortnight, visit [www.fortnight4freedom.org](http://www.fortnight4freedom.org).

A **Mass for Religious Freedom** will be celebrated, followed by a holy hour, on Wednesday, June 28, at 5:15 PM, at St Joseph Cathedral. The holy hour will begin with a rosary for religious freedom and liberty, followed by silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and concluding with Benediction. All are invited. For information, contact the Cathedral at (614) 224-1295. Elevator

access to the Cathedral is available via the west entrance (in the courtyard) from E Broad St.

St Mary Parish in Lancaster will have a holy hour with exposition, rosary, and adoration. On Tuesday, June 27, from 7-8 PM.

We are all called to follow Christ as missionary disciples by seeking the truth, serving others, and living our faith in all that we do. Please take a few moments each day from June 21-July 4 to pray, reflect, and take action on religious liberty, both here in this country and abroad.

## pray for the protection of religious liberty

O God our Creator,  
 from your provident hand we have received  
 our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.  
 You have called us as your people and given us  
 the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God,  
 and your Son, Jesus Christ.  
 Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit,  
 you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world,  
 bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel  
 to every corner of society.  
 We ask you to bless us  
 in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.  
 Give us the strength of mind and heart  
 to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened;  
 give us courage in making our voices heard  
 on behalf of the rights of your Church  
 and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.  
 Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father,  
 a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters  
 gathered in your Church  
 in this decisive hour in the history of our nation,  
 so that, with every trial withstood  
 and every danger overcome—  
 for the sake of our children, our grandchildren,  
 and all who come after us—  
 this great land will always be “one nation, under God,  
 indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.



## 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>		<b>8:20 AM</b>	7 AM	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM	8 AM
<i>Tuesday</i>	<b>8:20 AM</b>		9 AM	8 AM	NOON	7 AM	8 AM
<i>Wednesday</i>		<b>8:20 AM</b>	7 AM	6 PM	6:30 PM	9 AM	9 AM
<i>Thursday</i>		<b>6 PM</b>	9 AM	8 AM	NOON		
<i>Friday</i>		<b>8:20 AM</b>		8 AM	8 AM	9 AM	8 AM
<i>Saturday</i>		<i>9 AM Mass on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday only</i>				10 AM	9 AM
<i>confessions</i>	<b>Sunday @ 8AM</b>	<b>Thursday @ 5:30 PM</b> <b>Saturday @ 3 PM</b> <i>&amp; @ 8:30 AM on 1st Saturday only</i>	Saturday @ 4 PM	Saturday @ 5:30 PM	½ hour before Mass	Saturday @ 4 PM	Saturday @ 4 PM

# Saint Peter and Saint Paul

On Thursday's **feast of Saints Peter and Paul**, I usually focus on Saint Peter. I can't help it; I have some pretty good reasons for this bias, not the least of which is that I lived for four years in the seminary about a quarter of a mile from Saint Peter's tomb and his very great church in Rome. He was a saint I particularly liked because, in each of the gospels, there are unavoidable signs of Peter's flawed character, and yet we read that the Lord was willing to work with him and even to make something really great out of him. It adds to his fascination for me that the Lord chose this inadequate disciple to be the first of the apostles and the first pope.

But we shouldn't ignore the other apostle of Rome. Paul, like Peter, was martyred in Rome under the Emperor Nero. They have always represented for the Church two different strands in a united tradition.

Actually, nobody really knows anything about the actual date or year of **Paul's birth**, but we do know something of the **place**. Paul was from Tarsus in Cilicia. Tarsus was not in the Holy Land, but was north and a bit east of Syria, in the modern state of Turkey. Because his city had been given a special privilege by the emperor, Paul was **a Roman** citizen. But he was decidedly **a Jew**. He called himself "a Hebrew of the Hebrews." That meant he was a Jew who had learned his Torah and Talmud well and that he was deeply devoted to it. The first thing we ever hear of him is that he held the cloaks of (thus aided and abetted) those who stoned to death the first Christian martyr, the deacon Stephen. The next thing we hear is that he "was **breathing murderous threats** against the disciples of the Lord" as he headed to Damascus to see that the Christian "way" was nipped in the bud. It was on this trip that he had that famous **conversion** experience when the Lord stopped him in his tracks and asked him why he was persecuting him.

The last thing we hear about Saint Paul in the Scriptural record is that he had **arrived at Rome** and was living under a kind of house arrest there. This is an apt completion of the trajectory of his ministry as a Christian preacher in the generation or so between conversion and martyrdom. His life was **a movement** by the most Jewish of religious men **toward the most universal city** anyone could think of. Saint Luke, writing his Acts of the Apostles, wants us to understand that Paul took the Gospel to the heart of the world. And what followed on that was a spreading of the Gospel to the rest of the world. Rome is brought into the story as something much more than a passing geographical place name. By the will of Christ, something important happened there—and continues to happen to the whole Church through the Church at Rome.

Saint Peter went to Rome, too. Although there is nothing in the New Testament to indicate it so directly, there is an extremely old tradition that it is so. And, after some debate, a consensus of scholarly studies holds that Peter did indeed go to Rome, that he, too, preached the Gospel there, and that, like Paul, he died there **a martyr's death**. Peter and Paul didn't found the Church in Rome in the sense that they were the first bearers of the message, for there were already Christians in Rome—with what organization, we can only speculate, but with the Faith, we can be sure. What Peter and Paul brought to Rome was **the seal of an apostolic preaching**, especially commissioned by Christ. It was a unique witness to the Gospel by two of the men chosen by Christ to bear witness to him.

Uniting these two foundational men into one feast is a bit of a challenge. **They didn't always get along**, as we can read in Paul's report of how he "confronted Cephas to his face." "Cephas" is the Hebrew word for the name Jesus had called Simon; it means "Rock" and was very soon translated into the Greek word for rock which comes into English as "Peter". The issue was how Jewish a Gentile convert to Christianity would have to be: did he have to keep kosher dietary restrictions and follow the Talmud on the rule about circumcision? Just how divided the two men were on this thorny issue is not clear. One thing that is clear is that each of the two great founding fathers expressed a certain ambivalence on the working out of the teaching in some practical circumstances, but they were **firmly united on the fundamental point** that a Christian was not simply a Jew or a convert from Judaism who followed Jewish Law. In the final analysis, without repudiating the Old Testament or the Chosen People, they gave a joint (if sometimes uncomfortably united) witness to the message that in Jesus, something altogether new had happened, that in the person and the teaching of Jesus, in his death and resurrection, is found the pivotal moment in human history and in every individual life. Here, they proclaimed, is the great culmination of God's revelation to mankind.

There are saints and then there are saints. You knew that already. But **these two saints are so important in the history of our salvation** that the Church celebrates them solemnly even when their feast comes around on a Sunday. We put the Sunday observance aside for very few saints. These two very different men who were united in one message are indeed cause for joy. And thanksgiving.

— *Father Kessler*



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