



**Christ in the House of Martha and Mary**

A painted meditation on this Saturday's feast of Saint Martha

**The 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year**  
**at Lancaster St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary**

July 30, 2017

# St Bernadette Parish

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

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

cover picture: **Christ in the House of Martha and Mary**

painting (1655) in oil on canvas, by Jan Vermeer (1632-1675)

Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh

# St Mary Parish

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

## our parishes

**Father Thomas Kessler** (614) 634-0499  
pastor [wthomaskessler@icloud.com](mailto:wthomaskessler@icloud.com)

### at St Bernadette Parish

**Jeff Carpenter** (740) 681-9918  
deacon [carpenter.277@osu.edu](mailto:carpenter.277@osu.edu)  
**Mark Scarpitti** (740) 438-3970  
deacon [dcn.mark@frontier.com](mailto:dcn.mark@frontier.com)  
**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)  
**Angie & Kent Kerns** (740) 654-2588  
religious education [kwkerns@gmail.com](mailto:kwkerns@gmail.com)  
**Liz Latorre** (740) 243-1872  
liturgical music [lizlatorre@gmail.com](mailto:lizlatorre@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  
<http://stbernadetteparish.net>

### at Bremen St Mary Parish

**Ben Factor**  
liturgical music [b\\_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us](mailto:b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us)

*The St Mary Parish office* is at the church vestibule.  
Hours are 9-11 AM, Tuesdays.  
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)  
**Julie & Chase Stalford** (740) 808-7294  
youth ministry [maristellaspirt@gmail.com](mailto:maristellaspirt@gmail.com)

### at Saint Bernadette School

**Pam Eltringham** [peltring@cducation.org](mailto:peltring@cducation.org)  
principal (740) 654-3137  
**Barb Huber** [bhuber@cducation.org](mailto:bhuber@cducation.org)  
secretary (740) 654-3137

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

## 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 attend before the child is born. Next session is tentatively planned for October 19. If you are expecting or have a new born or somehow have somehow haven't gotten around to have an older child baptized, call Kathy to make plans.

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 the church prays :

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. 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.

### the pope is praying

#### for lapsed christians in july

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.

#### for artists in august

That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.

### we listen to God's word ... at sunday Mass

<i>Sunday, July 30,</i> <i>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday</i>	1 Kings 3:5-12	Psalm 119
	Romans 8:28-30	<b>Matthew 13:44-52</b>
<i>Sunday, Aug 6,</i> <i>Transfiguration</i>	Deut 7:9-14	Psalm 97
	2 Peter 1:16-19	<b>Matthew 17:1-9</b>

### ... during the week

<i>Mon, July 31</i>	Exodus 32:15-34	Ps 106	<b>Matthew 13:31-35</b>
<i>Tues, Aug 1</i>	Exodus 33:7-34:28	Ps 103	<b>Matthew 13:36-43</b>
<i>Weds, Aug 2</i>	Exodus 34:29-35	Ps 99	<b>Matthew 13:44-46</b>
<i>Thurs, Aug 3</i>	Exodus 40:16-38	Ps 84	<b>Matthew 13:47-53</b>
<i>Fri, Aug 4</i>	Leviticus 23:1-37	Ps 81	<b>Matthew 13:54-58</b>
<i>Sat, Aug 5</i>	Leviticus 25:1-17	Ps 67	<b>Matthew 14:1-12</b>

### summer square dance

Summer means square dancing at **Schmelzer's Grove**. Mark your calendars on Sunday evening, Aug 13, from 7-9:30 PM. Admission is \$4 per person.

### 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

July 31	Saint <b>Ignatius of Loyola</b> , priest
Aug 1	Saint <b>Alphonsus Liguori</b> , bishop and doctor of the Church
Aug 2	Saint <b>Eusebius of Vercelli</b> , bishop Saint <b>Peter Julian Eymard</b> , priest
Aug 4	Saint <b>John Vianney</b> , priest

### ministry at Mass at st mary

July 30 & August 6	lector	servers	Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
<b>Sunday 8:30 AM</b>	Barb VanFossen-Cook	Regan Conrad Alex Schmelzer	Dismas Schmelzer, Jim Schmelzer, Barb VanFossen-Cook	Nick Schmelzer family	Jim Schmelzer
<b>next Sunday</b>	Karen Wolfe	Isaac Schmelzer, Nicole Terry	Leo Kunkler Sr, Damian & Deborah Schmelzer	Leo Kunkler Sr family	Damian Schmelzer

## at both our parishes

### christian initiation

Speaking of spreading the word about our Catholic Christian faith, have you invited someone yet **to join the Church in the coming year? Will you help them by accompanying them through the RCIA process?** It begins soon after the feast of the Assumption, Aug 15. So we need to get a move on.

### thank you!

**Father William Donnelly**, OSA, and all the Augustinian missionaries thank you for your prayers and generous mission offerings from two weeks ago. St Mary parishioners gave \$626; St Bernadette parishioners gave \$1,872. Your offerings will help them to carry out their many missionary, educational and charitable activities in their missions in Japan and Peru and will help them educate young men studying for the priesthood. If you did not have an opportunity to make an offering or would like to make an additional offering, you may make your offering through the general parish collection **in a specially marked envelope**. Thank you for your prayers and generous financial support.

### collection for church in latin america

Today is the collection for the Church in Latin America. Please prayerfully consider supporting this collection, which strengthens the faith of our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Your support is bringing the faith to people in remote villages who would otherwise not have access to church programs and outreach. Share your faith and support the collection. To learn more, visit [www.usccb.org/latin-america](http://www.usccb.org/latin-america).

## at bremen st mary parish

### bremen food pantry

The Bremen Food Pantry needs **school supplies to help poor children in our community**. Check the list of needs on the bulletin boards and place your donation in the box in the Parish Hall today. This will help the Pantry open house on Saturday, Aug 5, from 9-11 AM. Any family in need can stop by that day at the Pantry to receive school supplies.

### 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.

### Mass intention at st mary

Tuesday morning Mass will be celebrated for Russell "Ed" Wagner. The Sunday Mass is offered for the people of the parish.

## at st bernadette parish

### help needed

Are you looking for a way to share your talents and time? St Vincent de Paul Society in Lancaster is in great need of help with the food pantry, the store, and client aid. Volunteering is a great way to give to someone in real need. Consider helping one day a month or one day a week, but please consider just helping. Contact Jill or Ed Weber at (740) 654-4148.

### Mass intentions at st bernadette

Monday,	July 31	8:20 AM	Louise Young
Wednesday,	Aug 2	8:20 AM	Gladys McAndrews
Thursday,	Aug 3	6 PM	Eileen Clark
Friday,	Aug 4	8:20 AM	Robert Beck

### ministry at Mass at st bernadette

	lector	Servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion			
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	Bob Christy	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Angie Christy Susan Garrett	Joyce Guenther Brad Rider	Craig Shaw Mickey Steyaert
<b>Sunday, July 30,</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	Denny Forquer	Samantha Kerns, Dominic & Emeline Neighbor	Pat Dreyer Pat Gins	John & Teresa Hartig	Ben Peters Jean Robertson
Monday,	8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Kendall & Morgan Cox	Patricia Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast	
Wednesday,	8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Gunner & Amelia Robertson	Angie Christy	Mary Jane Vajen	
Thursday,	6:00 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Becca Fuller, Olivia Reynolds	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan	
Friday,	8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Mitchell Ortiz, Daschel Neighbor	Jim Merk	Rita Merk	
Saturday,	9 AM	Kara Tencza	Jack Tencza	Jim Merk	Rita Merk	
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	Patrick Gins	Kendall Cox, Addy Myers, Daniel Turner	Rosalie DeFillippo Marguerite Grimm	Lee Guinan Jim & Becky Kuhn	Kathy Wagner
<b>Sunday, Aug 6,</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	Scott Wood	Cady Tipple, Brooke & Bryson Vogel	Terry Carpenter Nancy Griffith	Jim & Rita Merk Anna Sevigny	Becky Wickham

Saturday,	Aug 5	9 AM	Christa Herbert
Saturday,	Aug 5	4 PM	Fr Ronald Schmelzer

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

### fenwick class of 1967

Members of the Bishop Fenwick Class of 1967 celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the 4 PM Mass on Saturday, July 29 at St Bernadette. Celebrant will be Fr Kevin Robb op, of that class.

### st vincent de paul 5th sunday collection

Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society will take **up a collection at the church doors** today, the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## in our deanery

### grounded in faith, growing to serve

Many of us include our family in our wills, trusts, and life insurance policies. As stewards of God's gifts, we should include our Catholic faith, too. As Catholics, we are called to plan for the future of our parishes and our schools in the same way. Many have come to love William V. Fisher Catholic High School because within its walls we grew with Jesus Christ, built on our future, and developed long-lasting relationships. We have practiced our faith and received an enriched education. As a result we became a lasting part of this Catholic community.

Fisher Catholic High School works with the Catholic Foundation as a trusted partner because they assure peace of mind that our endowments are invested in alignment with our Catholic faith. You can help Fisher Catholic grow its endowment fund by identifying an end-of-

life planned gift in your will, trust, or life insurance policy. You can also make a gift to the Fisher Catholic High School Endowment Fund now, in any amount. God has given us many blessings in our life. Please consider how we can use those blessings to support the future Fisher Catholic High School. The Catholic Foundation can assist you with creating a plan that best fits your family's individual needs and charitable goals.

To learn more about **how you can support William V. Fisher**



**Catholic High School**, please contact Scott Hartman at the Catholic Foundation at (614) 443-8893 or shartman @ catholic-foundation . org.

## in the diocese of columbus

### a pilgrimage to carey for a novena

The Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, Carey, Ohio invites you to come and pray during the **novena of Our Lady**, Aug 6-14 at 8 PM (Sunday 2:30 PM). Fr Paul Gawlowski will be the novena preacher. Join in a lot or a little of this journey of faith, hope and healing. For information call (419) 396-7107 or visit olcshrine . com.

### from the chair

Join Bishop Campbell of the diocese of Columbus on Tuesday, Aug 1, for your questions from 5 to 6 PM on St Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820.

### cultivating intimacy:

#### 7 steps to creating a eucharistic marriage

All married couples are invited to the **diocesan retreat for married couples**, Saturday, Sept 9 from 9 AM to 4 PM at St Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Rd, Upper Arlington. Bishop Campbell will celebrate Mass and offer a morning reflection. Greg Schutte, author of *"Discovering our Deepest Desire"* and director of *Marriage Works! Ohio*, will continue with presentations on **enhancing the intimate relationship of husbands and wives**. A

guided holy hour will also be included in the day's schedule. Continental breakfast and warm lunch will be provided. Cost is \$65. Register by Sept 1 at [columbuscatholic.org/retreat](http://columbuscatholic.org/retreat) or (614) 241-2560.

### prayer gathering at church of our lady

On Saturday, Aug 5, from 9 AM until noon, the Columbus Catholic Renewal will host this prayer gathering at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. It includes Mass celebrated by Fr Dean Mathewson, breakfast, prayer ministry, confession, fellowship, and a teaching on "Surrendering" by Deacon Ed Shikina. Bring a dish to share and bring a friend. For information call Cheryl at (614) 861-1242.

### st mary in german village event

#### A BEAUTIFUL OLD CHURCH WITH STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS

We are all invited to the Ohio Theater on Monday, July 31, at 5:30 PM for a campaign kick-off to "Restore Renew Revitalize" St Mary Church in German Village. There is no charge for admission or refreshments, but a free will offering will be taken up during the evening, which includes a showing of the movie "The Bells of St Mary's." RSVP by July 25 to [sheilalutz13@gmail.com](mailto:sheilalutz13@gmail.com).

### catholic men's ministry

Now, more than ever, we need **Catholic male leadership**. **Weekly faith sharing groups** have been instrumental in bringing men together and fostering growth in their Catholic faith. Programs like "Iron Sharpens Iron" and "That Man Is You!" continue to grow throughout the Columbus Diocese and are changing lives. Get plugged in and learn more about the many programs and opportunities that are available. For information call Patrick Gins at (740) 536-7402.

### take a fresh look at your marriage

Treat yourselves to a Worldwide **Marriage Encounter Weekend** and enrich your lives together. The next weekend in central Ohio is Sept 15-17. For information or to apply, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www.wmccolumbus.org](http://www.wmccolumbus.org).

### saint mother teresa award

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](mailto: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.

### helping moms who have chosen life

**Angels Nurture & Disciple ("AND")** Inc is a pro-life organization that seeks to inspire, empower, and facilitate significant improvement in the educational, career, financial, and spiritual well-being of **single mothers who have chosen life** for their children. Visit us at [angelsand.org](http://angelsand.org) to learn more. To volunteer or support, contact Gina McCauley at [gina@angelsand.org](mailto:gina@angelsand.org) or (440) 749-5477.



### 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. 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 and 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](mailto:kielkopf.1@osu.edu).

### 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 married and have wisdom and experience to share**, you already qualify. Contact Kathleen Hall at [khall@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:khall@columbuscatholic.org) or (614) 241-2560.

### plan your family naturally

**Natural family planning (NFP)** uses modern scientific knowledge of fertility to allow married couples safely and effectively to 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). To register for a diocesan NFP workshop, contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560.

### new diocesan website

The Diocese of Columbus has a new website—[www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org). The new site provides greater access to news and information from both the Catholic Times and Catholic News Service, improved navigation and search capabilities, language translation, mobile device compatibility, and other features. Bookmark [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org) in your computer, tablet, or smartphone – it's **your new gateway to everything Catholic** in central, southern and eastern Ohio. For information, contact George Jones at [gjones@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:gjones@columbuscatholic.org).

## the bishop's annual appeal

### baa results so far

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

The Bishop's Annual Appeal is **winding down at St Bernadette and at St Mary**. 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 to date.

	St Bernadette	%of goal	Bremen St Mary	%of goal	Diocese of Columbus	% of goal
<i>total households</i>	452		130			
<i>households participating</i>	126	28%	50	38%		
<i>amount pledged</i>	\$ 36,930	87%	\$ 17,576	141%	\$ 7,174,325	110%
<i>average gift</i>	\$ 293		\$ 352			
<i>total paid</i>	\$ 17,410	41%	\$ 5,711	46%		
<i>BAA goal</i>	\$ 42,210		\$ 12,443		\$ 6,500,000	

## 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.

- has an overseas background as a coordinator for Peace Corps, Paraguay, where she became fluent in Spanish.
- has been a religious education director at a parish in Florida, conducting women and teen retreats.
- has experience in grief counseling, teen issues (including social media), women's issues, anxiety, depression, life transitions, spiritual issues, adult children of alcoholics, and the St Thomas Aquinas "Affirmation" psychotherapy discipline.

Anyone can contact Julie to schedule an appointment by calling (210) 781-0254 or by emailing julie . sopcc @ gmail . com. The Spirit of Peace website is spiritofpeaceclinicalcounseling . com.

## 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** can be acquired from the parish office.

## when you go to Mass

**Dress with dignity for Mass.** It seems that many people feel a need always to have a very casual look or even 'sexy' look. Dress for the occasion, even if it is less formal than it used to be. Dress with decorum, an aura of dignity. Teach your children that different types of dress are important for different occasions. For everything there is a time. Bare shoulders and visible bra straps are not a good idea. They are highly distracting.

**If you are late for Mass (or are returning from a necessary trip to the restroom), don't walk down the aisles looking for a seat** until it's an appropriate time. You would be disrupting others, and not showing respect for what is going on. A concert does not allow late-comers to waltz in at 'whatever' time. It's a rude thing to do and it sets a bad example for your kids.

**Do not be an observer of the Mass, but a participant.** It's not a spectator thing, we aren't consumers of a form of entertainment. Make an effort to listen: listen to the readings, pay attention to the homily. You can read the scripture passages before Mass, learn the prayers of the Mass, listen, and sing! If you open a hymnal and open your mouth to sing, you are much more likely to be a participant. You will become an outstanding role model for your kids.

*from a posting by Dorothy Pilarski  
on <http://gutsycatholicmom.blogspot.com>, Feb 07, 2011*

## more to think about

### spirit of peace clinical counseling

Julie Stafford, a parishioner at St Bernadette, a recent graduate with a Master of Arts degree in clinical social work from Ohio University and a licensed professional clinical counselor, is hanging out a shingle at St Bernadette as a clinical therapist. A member of the Spirit of Peace Counseling Services of Columbus, she is offering Catholic/Christian counseling services for greater Fairfield county here at St Bernadette. She

- is approved by the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.
- is a member of the Clinical Social Work Association.

## confessions & weekday Mass nearby . . . these times sometimes change, though, so be sure to call ahead!

	Bremen St Mary	Lancaster St Bernadette	Lancaster St Mary	Lancaster St Mark	Sugar Grove St Joseph	Circleville St Joseph	Logan St John
<i>Monday</i>		<b>8:20 AM</b>	7 AM	8 AM	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 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	7 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	NOON	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 @ 8 AM</b>	<b>Thursday @ 5:30 PM</b> <b>Saturday @ 3 PM</b> <b>&amp; @ 8:30 AM on 1st Saturday only</b>	Saturday @ 4 PM	Saturday @ 5:30 PM	½ hour before Mass	Saturday @ 4 PM	Saturday @ 4 PM

# When the Church Teaches God's Plan for Marriage

It has been 49 years since Pope Paul VI issued his encyclical letter, *Humanae Vitae* (Human Life). It was a long time ago, but I remember it. Just about everybody in the world seemed to think the teaching of that encyclical was a bad idea. As a twenty-year-old college seminarian, I thought it was bad idea. But we were wrong. The Pope was right. We should have listened. Not just because he was the pope and was teaching authoritatively about fundamental moral truth, necessary for our salvation, on behalf of Jesus Christ and of his holy Church. But also because he was telling us the truth, a truth important for our happiness in this life and for our very salvation.

What Pope Paul said that day was that the use of artificial **contraception** is always morally disordered, in a serious way, even in marriage. This means that the use of birth control pills and condoms is a serious sin.

Nobody wanted to hear that. And the **adverse reaction** was very strong. When Pope Paul wrote what he wrote, it came as a thunderbolt in the middle of long hot summer. What he said that day was not just his point of view. It was—and remains and must remain—the teaching of the Catholic Church. But it was not a welcome teaching. The secular world scoffed. Many pastors ignored the teaching; a few denounced it. Many of the laity disobeyed, others abandoned the Faith altogether; still others decided that they would take what they wanted from any presentation of the Faith and just ignore what they didn't. 1968 was already filled with student protests all over the world, urban riots in American ghettos and even at a national political convention, a very unpopular war in Viet Nam, a tragic end to an experiment in freedom in then-communist then-Czechoslovakia, disorientation in the Catholic Church which seemed to be changing very rapidly things many people thought could never change. The wheels seemed to be falling off the world as we had known it. The Church was no exception.

The irony is that this teaching had been held by virtually every Christian church or ecclesial community for as long as anyone had ever thought of the issue of limiting births. It was the Anglicans who broke ranks in 1930. In the next 38 years many other Protestants followed suit. And many Catholic began to think their Church would, too. And during that time a **sexual revolution** was hatched. For that revolution to have traction, **sexuality and sexual conduct** had to be divorced from the often-inconvenient reality of the gift of **human fertility** and from the beautiful but difficult need for **permanently committed married love**. Christianity had never looked askance at sexuality. It was just that the Church had always seen that the divine plan, in “making them male and female,” involved a profound unity of these realities. But modern technology invented or “perfected” ways to bypass all this. And personal satisfaction seemed to mandate the bypass.

And further, there was a new scare growing up in those days, especially in the prosperous Western world, that there was a “**population bomb**,” a time bomb ticking away, which could only be defused if we stopped the supposed “pollution” of too many, not always wanted, babies. Today it is hard to believe that scare ever existed. The demographic facts have created a scare in precisely the opposite direction: Not enough babies are being made to have a healthy replacement for those who die off. Now the issue is not how are we going to squeeze them all in, how are we going to feed them, but rather, as the baby boomers retire and the next generation so few in number, dangerously few in economic terms, how can we restore a **healthy replacement population**?

But much more sadly, how did we get to the point of listening to people who can talk of new human life, new **babies**, as a form of **pollution**? Whatever their race or sex or health condition, however convenient their conceiving may be to our plans, babies are **to be loved and cherished**.

Was Pope Paul, in 1968, just failing to face up to modern realities? That's not how he saw it. He knew that there was a need to be consistent with what the Church had taught through the centuries. And he sensed the destructive consequences of the **fragmentation of the human person** that would follow the divorce of sex, love, and making new life.

The whole world seemed to rebel. And we have begun to see some of the results. It's not a pretty picture. The sexual revolution has turned into a species of hedonism that nobody could have predicted. Nobody but the Catholic Church. Pornography is hurting marriages. Divorce has become an epidemic. Relations between men and women are more troubled than ever. A new “gay” movement has been invented. Abortion seemed to be the necessary back up-form of birth control (because birth control is never fool-proof), and began to be treated as a vital natural right, a woman's choice that is private and is none of anyone else's business—except that insurance policies and government agencies must pay for it!—instead of the heinous crime that killing a baby really is. And a lot more people are leading **unsatisfied lives**.

Something needs to be done, and nobody seems to know what. Oh, wait! Someone *has* spoken eloquently and authoritatively about what needs to be done. Pope John Paul II taught with care and great wisdom about something that has come to be called “the **theology of the body**.” The language expressed by bodies during sexual intercourse, is so damaged by the use of artificial contraception that the conjugal act “ceases to be an act of love... [or] communion of persons” but rather is a mere bodily union. John Paul taught that God has shown us a better way. **Natural family planning** is obviously in God's plan. It is basic to the structure of the human body, which has natural periods of fertility and infertility. Its morality was built into the body, and its use, unlike artificial contraception, can improve the dialog between spouses, expressed through the language of the body. Pope John Paul emphasized the intrinsic *goodness* of the marital act. The power of love between spouses leads to and is nourished by the moral use of the conjugal act. Moral exercise of sexual intercourse uses the form of the body to reveal the love of God toward Creation.

There is much more to be said about natural family planning and the theology of the body. Check out the references to **NFP Awareness Week** elsewhere in today's bulletin. And pray for married couples that they may have the courage to do the right thing. And for our society that we may have the grace to recover from so much of our energies spent going in the wrong way.

—Father Kessler

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