



## **Get Behind Me, Satan!**

The very firm response of Jesus  
when Peter rejected Jesus's words  
about his coming suffering and death

# **The 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year**

**at Lancaster St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary**

September 3, 2017

## St Bernadette Parish.

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

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

cover picture: [Get Thee Behind Me, Satan](#)

### our parishes.

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

#### at St Bernadette Parish

<b>Jeff Carpenter</b>	(740) 681-9918	<a href="mailto:carpenter.277@osu.edu">carpenter.277@osu.edu</a>
deacon		
<b>Mark Scarpitti</b>	(740) 438-3970	<a href="mailto:dcn.mark@frontier.com">dcn.mark@frontier.com</a>
deacon		
<b>Ann Essman</b>	(740) 653-9347	<a href="mailto:aessman001@att.net">aessman001@att.net</a>
pastoral minister		
<b>Steve Huber</b>	(740) 654-3137	<a href="mailto:shuber57@yahoo.com">shuber57@yahoo.com</a>
facilities coordinator		
<b>Angie &amp; Kent Kerns</b>	(740) 654-2588	<a href="mailto:kwkerns@gmail.com">kwkerns@gmail.com</a>
religious education		
<b>Liz Latorre</b>	(740) 243-1872	<a href="mailto:lizlatorre@gmail.com">lizlatorre@gmail.com</a>
liturgical music		

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

**Sarah Borah** [sborah920@gmail.com](mailto:sborah920@gmail.com)

*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 [stbernbook@gmail.com](mailto:stbernbook@gmail.com)  
bookkeeper

**Kathy Kehnast** (740) 654-1893 [stbernparish@yahoo.com](mailto:stbernparish@yahoo.com)  
pastoral coordinator

**Julie & Chase Stalford** (740) 808-7294 [maristellspirit@gmail.com](mailto:maristellspirit@gmail.com)  
youth ministry

#### Saint Bernadette School

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

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

*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)

## St Mary Parish.

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

Painted (between 1876-1884)  
in opaque watercolor over graphite on gray wove paper  
by James Tissot (1836-1902)

*The Brooklyn Museum*

### 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.

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

We 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."

We bring Penance, Anointing, and Holy Communion to 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 this Sunday the church prays :

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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.

### these days pope is praying

in september, that our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.

### we listen to God's word

<b>Sunday, Sept 3,</b>	Jeremiah 20:7-9	Psalm 63		
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>	Romans 12:1-2	<b>Matthew 16:21-27</b>		
<b>Mon, Sept 4</b>	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Ps 96	<b>Luke</b>	<b>4:16-30</b>
<b>Tues, Sept 5</b>	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Ps 27	<b>Luke</b>	<b>4:31-37</b>
<b>Weds, Sept 6</b>	Colossians 1:1-8	Ps 52	<b>Luke</b>	<b>4:38-44</b>
<b>Thurs, Sept 7</b>	Colossians 1:9-14	Ps 98	<b>Luke</b>	<b>5:1-11</b>
<b>Fri, Sept 8</b>	Micah 5:1-4	Ps 13	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>1:1-23</b>
<b>Sat, Sept 9</b>	Colossians 1:21-23	Ps 54	<b>Luke</b>	<b>6:1-5</b>
<b>Sunday, Sept 10,</b>	Ezekiel 33:7-9	Psalm 95		
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>	Romans 13:8-10	<b>Matthew 18:15-20</b>		

### feast days this week

Sept 5	Saint Teresa of Calcutta, religious
Sept 8	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sept 9	Saint Peter Claver, priest

## at both our parishes

### YDisciple youth ministry

Are you ready for fun, faith, and friendships? **Pizza kickoff** is Sunday Sept 10, at 6 PM at St Bernadette in the Mary Good Center. Don't miss the opportunity to grow in the most important area of your life—God! Make it a priority to share, learn, and have an amazing time together while walking on a journey growing in faith. All interested high school youth are invited. Become energized to experience the love of God and build life-long friendships that truly help you walk closer to God. Contact Chase or Julie Stalford at (210) 781-0254 for information and to RSVP.

### 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebration

*"I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me."* Galatians 2:20

Parishioners of St Mary Bremen and St Bernadette are invited to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebration of **Sister Nancy Ames OP** on Sunday, Sept 17, from 3 to 5 PM at Holy Trinity School in Somerset. A tour of the newly renovated part of the convent will be available for interested guests. Refreshments will be served in the school gym. RSVP by Sept 4 to Kathy at stbernaparish@yahoo.com or (740) 654-1893.

## rcia —participants needed

Now is the time! Who are you going to invite at least to think about the Catholic Christian Faith? This year?

The Catholic Faith has **beautiful and true answers to the questions people ask about the meaning of our lives**. Are you or is your husband or wife or a friend searching for that meaning? Do you want to find deeper unity for your marriage and family? You or someone you know may want to learn what this Faith has to offer. Not the cartoon image of Catholicism that a hostile society presents, but the Faith of the Church herself. Sometimes a person already Catholic wants to find out what it is really all about. It can be anyone, in any circumstance of life.

The RCIA helps such folks to find what they are looking for. Many people don't know of this vital resource—unless we tell them. It is not a matter for insistence or pressure. It is a sharing, an invitation that is respectful. **The invitation** will be much more attractive when extended by **someone willing to accompany the quester** along the way.

**People who have benefitted personally from the RCIA** experience are urged to gather with the inquirers, serving as sponsors and mentors of various kinds, to help them, if it is God's will, to become grafted onto the life of the Catholic Christian Church.

For information about RCIA (the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults) in our parishes, contact Kathy at (740) 654-1893.

Pray that you will have the grace and the courage to welcome and invite someone to the sacramental life!

### jillian's dinner

On Saturday, Oct 21, St Bernadette Parish will host the 17<sup>th</sup> annual **Jillian's Dinner**. This dinner raises money to assist a family from our area who has suffered catastrophic illness, the loss of a loved one, or some such major adversity. To recommend someone who might benefit from Jillian's Dinner, contact Kathy Wagner at (740) 687-0504. Nominations will be considered by a lay committee and are kept confidential. A raffle is held during the dinner to generate more funds to help the family. If you have items to donate, you may bring them to the St Bernadette parish office by Oct 13.

### PDHC celebration

You can save and change lives. Attend a Life & Liberty Celebration benefitting Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) on Wednesday, Sept 20, at 6 PM at Fairfield Christian Church. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and then be inspired by guest speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North. Attendance is complimentary. You will be given an opportunity to make a contribution to save lives. You must register before Sept 15. Register at SupportPDHC.org. To sponsor this event and to meet LtCol North, contact Kathy Scanlon at KathyS@pdhc.org or (614) 888-8774, ext 6117.

### parish endowment funds

St Bernadette Parish has two endowment funds at The Catholic Foundation. They grow by market growth and by our generous (and tax-sheltering) gifts. Bremen St Mary could also have such an endowment, if a generous donor would like to start one. There is no

required minimum to contribute to these funds. Endowment funds are accounts made of gifts that are never spent. Instead, they are invested to generate a perpetual income stream. It's a way to leverage donations so that in the long term, they generate far more benefit than just a one-time gift. These funds are setup to benefit you. To find out how these funds benefit (or could benefit) your parish community, contact Scott Hartman at (614) 443-8893 or email shartman@catholic-foundation.org.

## parish contributions what you gave in the collection in August

St Bernadette	Aug 6	Aug 13	Aug 20	Aug 27	Totals
weekly	7,711	6,560	6,007	5,486	25,764
electronic funds transfer	2,664	176	176	176	3,192
Assumption Day	5	121	1,112	0	1,238
educational support	670	65	36	445	1,216
<b>Total given to the parish</b>	<b>11,050</b>	<b>6,922</b>	<b>7,331</b>	<b>6,107</b>	<b>31,410</b>
Latin America	144	20	25	0	189
<b>Total sent beyond the parish</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>189</b>

  

Bremen St Mary	Aug 6	Aug 13	Aug 20	Aug 27	Totals
weekly	1,111	4,529	1,217	1009	7,866
Assumption Day	25	71	35	0	131
<b>Total given to the parish</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>1,252</b>	<b>1009</b>	<b>7,997</b>
Latin America	40	70	0	0	110
St Vincent de Paul	282	575	20	105	982
<b>Total sent beyond the parish</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1,092</b>

## at bremen st mary parish

### parish homecoming and picnic

Bremen St Mary Parish is looking forward to our annual **Parish Homecoming and Picnic**. The plan is to have this happen at Schmelzer's Grove on Sunday, Sept 24. In recent years this has been a day of good food, dancing, hay and pony rides, games and some fine Dixieland music. That's the plan and this plan can be fulfilled if some parishioners will step forward to help make the arrangements. For information or if you would like to volunteer, call the St Mary parish office at (740) 569-7929.

### men's night out

The next Men's Night Out gathering and dinner happens at Bremen St Mary on Wednesday, Sept 13, at 6:30 PM in the parish hall. All men of the parish are invited. Bring a friend. For information, contact Jim Schmelzer at (740) 215-3894 or Patrick Gins at (740) 536-7402.

### an unexpected visitor

An unexpected visitor has been cooking meals in the parish hall at St Mary—leaving the pantry light on, the gas on the stove lit, and even an empty soup can and dirty dishes in the sink. So, we are going to have to **keep the parish hall locked** except when there is a responsible person from the parish in the building. We will make

adjustments as soon as possible so that the Church can be left available again for prayer during the daylight hours.

### 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 Mass will be celebrated for Hugh Messerly.

### ministry at Mass at st mary

Sept 3 & lector Sept 10	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher	
<b>Sunday 8:30 AM</b>	Linda Qualls	Cody Fyffe, Jillian Wilkinson	Neil Boch, Damian & Deborah Schmelzer	James Noll Jr family	Damian Schmelzer
<b>next Sunday</b>	Jeanne Schmelzer	Spencer Conrad, Alex Schmelzer	Leo Kunkler Sr, Pam Redding, Dismas Schmelzer	Maurice Schmelzer family	Joe Young

### small maintenance jobs

Our parish needs a person or persons who could handle **small maintenance jobs** at the church, the rectory, and the Grove, on an as-needed basis. The qualifications are simple: Be handy and responsible and reasonably knowledgeable about basic maintenance and good upkeep. Jim Schmelzer has been the go-to-guy for these tasks for a number of years. And he has done a super job! But he feels the need now to pull back some. A replacement helper will not be held to the high standard of helpfulness, skill, and common sense that Jim has shown. But he will be very much appreciated. To learn how you could help or to volunteer, call Kathy at either parish office.

## at st bernadette parish

### parish school of religion

St Bernadette PSR has begun and meets every Sunday at 9:30 AM. Last minute registration can still take place. Just a reminder: Catholic parents have a solemn moral duty to see that their children are properly and completely instructed in the Catholic Faith. And they have a duty to see that their children attend every week (barring health or weather deterrents). And children will find getting to know Jesus and his Church to be an irreplaceable and joy filled part of their upbringing.

### sandwich saturday

School has started and the students are ready to begin serving the community by participating in the "Sandwich Saturday" program. This is a service project where students show discipleship by making sandwiches for Foundation Dinners, usually on the last Thursday of each month. Donations are greatly appreciated and can be made through the school or parish office. Please contact the school office for information at (740) 654-3137.

### Mass intentions at st bernadette

Monday,	Sept 4	8:20 AM	James Mahon IV
Wednesday,	Sept 6	8:20 AM	Leonard & Betty Monaghan
Thursday,	Sept 7	6 PM	Earl Mathias
Friday,	Sept 8	8:20 AM	John "JJ" McGee
Saturday,	Sept 9	4 PM	Frank Schmelzer

## ministry at Mass at st bernadette

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
<b>Saturday, 4:00 PM</b>	Becky Kuhn	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Rosalie DeFillippo Susan Garrett Marguerite Grimm	Jim Kuhn Denise McGuire Kathy Wagner
<b>Sunday, Sept 3, 11:00 AM</b>	Amy Woo	Daniel Turner, Diana & Sarah Woo	Patrick Gins Anna Seigny John & Teresa Hartig	David Shonk Becky Wickham
Monday, 8:20 AM	Mary J Vajen	Morgan Cox, Silus Hopkins	Patricia Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Hyde O'Rielly, Isabelle Lazar	Angie Christy	Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, 6:00 PM	Kathy Kehnast	DaschelNeighbor Amelia Robertson	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan
Friday, 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Kyndra Nagle, Olivia Reynolds	Jim & Rita Merk	
<b>Saturday, 4:00 PM</b>	Brad Rider	Avee & Drew Solt, Cady Tippie	Tara Craaybeek Lee Guinan Bob & Angie Christy	Sandy Landefeld Craig Shaw
<b>Sunday, Sept 10, 11:00 AM</b>	Scott Wood	Collin & Emma McCrady, Caroline Messlerly	Jim & Rita Merk Jean Robertson Teresa Scarpitti	Mary Jane Vajen Amy Woo

## walking with purpose

*Walking with Purpose is a program that helps women to know Christ through Scripture. Join us for our next session, **Opening Your Heart**, starting Thursday, Sept 14. This twenty-two session course **cultivates our relationship with Christ by expanding our knowledge of the Catholic Church's teachings and the Bible.** For this session, we are partnering with Lancaster St Mary Parish.*

- The morning group will meet on Thursdays from 9-10:30 AM at St Bernadette Mary Good Center
- The evening group will meet on Thursday evenings from 7 - 8:30 PM at St Mary Spirit Center

Cost is \$40 for a book; please register by September 3 to have your materials.

Walking with Purpose is Catholic **faith-sharing that aims to bring women to a deeper personal relationship with Christ.** Through personal study and small group discussions, the group helps to link our everyday challenges with solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church. It aims to meet women where we are in our everyday lives. As we explore our faith, we invite you to join us for as many sessions as your schedule allows. For questions or to register, contact Amy Woo at (414) 882-1863. For general program information, visit [www.walkingwithpurpose.com](http://www.walkingwithpurpose.com).

## 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](mailto:shartman@catholic-foundation.org).

## in the diocese of columbus

### healing Mass at saint joseph cathedral

A Mass of healing will be celebrated on Monday, Sept 18, at 6:30 PM at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Columbus. Following the Mass, a service of healing begins with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, veneration of a relic of the true cross of Christ, and an opportunity for each person to speak individually with a priest and receive prayers of healing; the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is also available. The service closes with Benediction. Call the Cathedral with questions at (614) 224-1295.

### Sacred Heart congress

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Sacred Heart Congress will be Saturday, Oct 14, at Christ the King Church in Columbus from 8 AM to 1:15 PM. It features Fr John Paul Mary, director of EWTN pilgrimages; Sr Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz OP, vocations director of Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; and Fr Stash Dailey, spiritual director of Sacred Heart Columbus and administrator of Holy Family Parish. The day includes talks, recitation of the rosary, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and Holy Mass at noon. A free-will offering will be taken. For information and registration visit [www.sacredheartcongresscolumbus.org](http://www.sacredheartcongresscolumbus.org).

### from the chair

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

### holy land pilgrimage

Have you considered adding a new dimension of understanding regarding your Christian history and the life of Jesus? Father Nic Ventura, a Fisher Catholic High School alum and Lancaster native, invites you to join him on a life-changing pilgrimage to the holy land of Israel. Travelers will experience the places where Jesus walked, lived, taught, and performed miracles. Mass will be celebrated daily at various holy sites. The dates for this spiritual journey are Feb 21-Mar 2, 2018. The cost is \$3179 per person with breakfast, dinner, fees, and tips included. For information contact Aimee Walton at [frnicpilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:frnicpilgrimage@gmail.com) or (740) 225-6136.

### breakfast with the bishop

This year's breakfast happens on Friday, Sept 8, from 7:30 to 9 AM at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown, 15 N Third St, Columbus. Featured speakers will be Bishop Campbell and Columbus City Auditor Hugh Dorrian. For registration and sponsorship information call (614) 857-1254 or visit [www.colscss.org/upcoming-events/](http://www.colscss.org/upcoming-events/).

## pilgrimage to Carey

Join a Marian Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Consolation Basilica and Shrine in Carey, on Wednesday, Oct 4, for a **day of prayer**. Lunch may be purchased at the cafeteria. Send a check for \$25 to Margaret Kronenbitter, 2700 Wayne Ridge Rd, Zanesville, Ohio 43701, by Wednesday, Sept 6. The bus will depart @ 7:50 AM and return @ 6:45 PM. Call Rita Merk at (740) 654-3255 for information.

## 7 steps to cultivate a eucharistic marriage

All married couples are invited to the **diocesan retreat for married couples**, Saturday, Sept 9, from 9 AM-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”*, will continue with presentations on **enhancing the intimate relationship of husbands and wives**. A guided holy hour will be included in the day’s schedule. Continental breakfast and warm lunch will be provided. Cost is \$65. Register at columbuscatholic . org/retreat or (614) 241-2560.

## since you care about your marriage

Give yourself and your spouse the gift of a **Marriage Encounter Weekend**. The next two weekends in our area are Sept 15-17 and Feb 16-18. For information or to apply, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www . wmeecolumbus . org](http://www.wmecolumbus.org).

## cardinal dinardo: talking about joy

The Pontifical College Josephinum invites you to hear Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, archbishop of Houston and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops speak on **“The Gospel of Joy is the Gospel of Life: The Human Person”** on Wednesday, Sept 6, at 7 PM at the Jessing Center.

## fall tour at the josephinum

Seminarians at the Josephinum will offer tours of their seminary and its newly renovated chapel on Saturday, Sept 16, from 10 AM-3 PM. Admission is free. Tours begin every half-hour and last about 45 minutes, followed by refreshments. For information or to make a reservation, call the Josephinum at (614) 985-2203.

## blue Mass

St Timothy Parish will host the Blue Mass on Monday, Sept 11, at 5 PM. The Blue Mass is an opportunity **to pray for all active, retired and deceased first-responders**. Celebrant and homilist will be Bishop Frederick Campbell. First-responders and their families are invited. For information, contact Mark Gideon at [mgideon @ columbus . rr . com](mailto:mgideon@columbus.rr.com).

## the beauty of the feminine

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual **Beauty of the Feminine Catholic Women’s Conference** will happen on Saturday, Oct 7, from 8 AM to 3 PM at

St Thomas Aquinas Parish in Zanesville. This year’s theme is **“Anchored in Hope.”** To register call St Thomas at (740) 453-3301 or email [thebeautyofthefeminine @ gmail . com](mailto:thebeautyofthefeminine@gmail.com). If you register by Sept 30, your \$20 include breakfast and lunch. Registration on the day of the event is \$25. Contact Susan with questions or visit [www . thebeautyofthefeminine . weebly . com](http://www.thebeautyofthefeminine.weebly.com) and Facebook @ TheBeautyOfTheFeminine for information.

## universality of catholicism – east and west

Fr Ignatius Harrington, pastor of Holy Resurrection Melkite Church, will discuss the universality of the Catholic Church in the Eastern and Western Churches, telling **how the Eastern Churches are in communion with Rome and the Holy Father and why some aspects fell apart**. You are invited to Liturgy at Holy Resurrection Church at 11 AM on Sunday, Sept 24. Following Liturgy, enjoy a social; the talk by Fr Harrington begins at 1 PM. Attending this Liturgy does indeed fulfill your Sunday obligation.

## 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 speak on **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).

## new diocesan website

The Diocese of Columbus has a new website—[www . columbuscatholic . org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org). It 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.

## more to think about

### spirit of peace clinical counseling

Julie Stalford, 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.

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

## confessions & weekday Mass nearby

These times sometimes change, though, so be sure to call ahead!



parish	confessions	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bremen St Mary	8 AM Sunday		8:20 AM				
Lancaster St Bernadette	5:30 PM Thurs, 3 PM Sat; 8:30 AM on 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat @ 9 AM
Lancaster St Mary	4 PM Saturday	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		
Lancaster St Mark	5:30 PM Saturday	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM	
Sugar Grove St Joseph	½ hour before Mass	VARIABLE	NOON	7 PM	NOON	NOON	
Circleville St Joseph	4 PM Saturday	9 AM	7 PM	9 AM		9 AM	
Logan St John	4 PM Saturday	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM

# How Humans Are Special

It just isn't enough to say that the Catholic Church does not have a puritanical teaching about the human body. She doesn't, but there is much more to be said, if we are to understand what our religion has to say about ... us. And unless we have such an understanding—and pass such an understanding on to our young people—her teaching about chastity will sound oppressive to a culture that is intolerant of any who would insist on the importance of the self-discipline of chastity.

Before we can talk about the way to behave, we need to see what the Church's Scriptures have to say about what human beings are—and what they aren't.

God made the human beings male and female and, when he had done so, he saw that it was very good indeed. The book of Genesis tells us that, but, as Pope John Paul II noted, in telling of the creation of the animals, Genesis doesn't bother to tell that he had made all *animals* male and female. It isn't that they aren't made male and female or that they aren't good. It is that the humans are a unique portion of creation, the culmination, the zenith of all that God made. Genesis wants us to pay attention to the fact that for all of our resemblances to animals, we humans are not simply a more advanced kind of animal. No, we were made in the image and likeness of God.

We *are* like the animals in that, like them, we are creatures; we are *not* God. On the other hand, we are *unlike* them in that we are *like* God. How? How do we resemble him? Well, not in being the creator or in being perfect; that's for sure. And not in having eyes and ears, hands and feet. We are like him in the ability to love, to know the consequences of our actions, to have an awareness of the right and wrong of actions.

In our secular culture, some people attempt to cut us humans down to the level of the animals. We have entertainment that pretends that animals are just like humans in their affections, in their intelligence, in their ability to make decisions, to do right and wrong, to speak. We all realize that the love of Mickey and Minnie isn't really love, that the cleverness of Bugs and the anger of Elmer Fudd are not representative of animal reality.

Many people nowadays like to marvel at the intelligence of such animals as porpoises. They imagine the animals as having rights. When that happens, people become confused about the absolutely unique character of the human being. If "animal rights" were just a way we chose to convince ourselves not to mistreat them, that would be one thing. But we lose sight of the divinely charged dignity that is at the source of rights as humans. It is true that the animals are a magnificent part of God's creation and that they must be treated with respect. Genesis says that humans are the stewards of God's creation, with mastery over them and responsibility to take proper care of them, never mistreat them. But humans are something altogether different, according to Genesis. We are like God. And that is something else. Humans have rights—that come from God—rights that must be kept inviolate.

For reasons that have more to do with sentimentality than with the truth, we sometimes presume that there must be heaven for animals just as there is for humans. But that is not part of the teaching of our Faith, and we have to ask ourselves what it means that "for us men and for our salvation, he came down from heaven."

The way humans relate to each other bodily, the way they are involved in making new life, is unique among God's creatures. Unlike animals, humans know that sexual activity is meant to be an intimate encounter; it is meant to be exclusive; it is meant to be an act of love. We know that even without the benefit of explicit revelation. We call sexual contact "love," even when love is absent. And humans are the only creatures who can feel guilt, if their intimate actions are degrading and exploitative. Sometimes that unique awareness of guilt and shame may feel like a curse instead of a blessing. But it is a sign of our dignity: God has made us in such a way that when a person has done what is beneath our dignity, guilt is the blessing that calls him back.

Humans are unique in knowing that this intimacy can lead to the making of new life. Other creatures *reproduce*; but so do photocopiers. Humans are aware that they are involved in God's own work of creation: they *procreate*.

There is a lot more to be said about theology of the body. So far, we have only noted that our Faith teaches us that we are something more than animals, that we should look to God and not to animals when we want to come to terms with who we are. We need to pay attention to the Word of God and the teaching of the Catholic Church about what kind of communication married love actually is.

— Father Kessler

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