



**The Mother of God Enthroned with the Christ Child  
Amidst Angels and Saints**

a celebration of the glory of heaven,  
the great theme of this Wednesday's holy day

**The 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year**  
**at Lancaster St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary**

October 29, 2017

## St Bernadette Parish.

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

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

## St Mary Parish.

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

cover picture:

[The Mother of God Enthroned with the Christ Child Amidst Angels and Saints](#)

the central panel of a great altarpiece known as the *Maestà*, painted (1308-1311) in tempera and gold on wood (84 inches x 156 inches), by Duccio di Buoninsegna (ca.1225-ca.1318)

The Museum of the Cathedral, Siena

### our parishes

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

#### at St Bernadette Parish

**Jeff Carpenter** (740) 681-9918 [carpenter.277@osu.edu](mailto:carpenter.277@osu.edu)  
*deacon*

**Mark Scarpitti** (740) 438-3970 [dcn.mark@frontier.com](mailto:dcn.mark@frontier.com)  
*deacon*

**Ann Essman** (740) 653-9347 [aessman001@att.net](mailto:aessman001@att.net)  
*pastoral minister*

**Steve Huber** (740) 654-3137 [shuber57@yahoo.com](mailto:shuber57@yahoo.com)  
*facilities coordinator*

**Angie & Kent Kerns** (740) 654-2588 [kwkerns@gmail.com](mailto:kwkerns@gmail.com)  
*religious education*

**Liz Latorre** (740) 243-1872 [lizlatorre@gmail.com](mailto:lizlatorre@gmail.com)  
*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)  
*religious education*

**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)  
*business manager*

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

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

### 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 will be in January. If you are expecting or have a new born or somehow haven't gotten around to have an older child baptized, call Kathy to make plans now.

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 :

Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. 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.

### at Mass on All Saints' Day the church prays :

Almighty ever-living God, by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints, bestow on us, we pray, through the prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long. 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.

### in October the pope prays

... that all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.

### in November the pope prays

... that Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

### we listen to God's word and honor his saints

<b>Sunday, Oct 29,</b>	Exodus 22:20-26	Psalm 18
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	1 Thessalonians 1:5-10	<b>Matthew 22:34-40</b>
Mon, Oct 30	Romans 8:12-17	Psalm 68 Luke 13:10-17
Tues, Oct 31	Romans 8:18-25	Psalm 126 Luke 13:18-21
<b>Weds, Nov 1</b>	Revelation 7:2-14	Psalm 24
<b>All Saints</b>	1 John 3:1-3	<b>Matthew 5:1-12</b>
Thurs, Nov 2	Wisdom 3:1-9	Psalm 23
<b>All Souls</b>	Romans 5:5-11	John 6:37-40
Fri, Nov 3	Romans 9:1-5	Psalm 147 Luke 14:1-6
	Saint Martin de Porres, religious	
Sat, Nov 4	Romans 11:1-29	Psalm 94 Luke 14:1-11
	Saint Charles Borromeo, bishop	

<b>Sunday, Nov 5,</b>	Malachi 1:14-2:10	Psalm 131
<b>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	1 Thessalonians 2:7-13	<b>Matthew 23:1-12</b>

### Mass intentions this week

Monday, Oct 30	8:20 AM	Earl Mathias	at St Bernadette
Tuesday, Oct 31	8:20 AM	Agnes Smith	at Bremen St Mary
Wednesday, Nov 1	8:20 AM	for the people	at St Bernadette
Wednesday, Nov 1	NOON	for the people	at Bremen St Mary
Wednesday, Nov 1	6 PM	for the people	at St Bernadette
Thursday, Nov 2	8:20 AM	poor souls in purgatory	at Bremen St Mary
Thursday, Nov 2	6 PM	poor souls in purgatory	at St Bernadette
Friday, Nov 3	8:20 AM	Diana Harris	at St Bernadette
Saturday, Nov 4	9 AM	Evie Peoples	at St Bernadette
Saturday, Nov 4	4 PM	<b>Mass of Remembrance</b>	at St Bernadette

## at both parishes

### An unusual Mass schedule this week !

Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday have an ordinary schedule. But then comes All Saints Day, Nov 1, which is a holy day of obligation; All Souls Day, which is not obligatory, but on which priests and congregations are urged to make a special effort to attend Mass; Friday is First Friday, which is the Church's special monthly day to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus; and Saturday, First Saturday, is the monthly special day of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On Wednesday we will celebrate holy day Mass

- at 8:20 AM (as usual) and 6 PM at St Bernadette and
- at NOON at St Mary Bremen.

On Thursday we will celebrate Mass for the faithful departed

- at 8:20 AM in Bremen and
- at 6 PM (as usual) at St Bernadette

On Friday we will celebrate Mass in honor of the boundlessly loving Lord

- at 8:20 AM (as usual) at St Bernadette and
- at 2:40 PM at Fisher Catholic High School

On Saturday morning we will celebrate First Saturday Mass

- at 8:20 AM (as usual) at St Bernadette and

On Saturday evening, Mass will be at the usual time at St Bernadette, but with the parish's tradition of beginning the Month of the Faithful Departed with a Mass of Remembrance, commemorating at Mass parishioners who have died during the preceding year.

Be sure to fulfill your duty. And try to add these other special events. There is something special about going to Mass even when it isn't strictly required.

### y disciple youth ministry event

#### fall nature hike and picnic

A fall nature hike and picnic happens today, Sunday, Oct 29, from 12:15-6:30 PM at Hocking Hills State Park. This is a fun, social day exploring **God's beautiful autumn display**. Youth from Bremen St Mary or St Bernadette should meet for departure in front of St B School after the 11 AM Mass. Each person should bring \$3 for the picnic lunch; dinner is provided free of charge. Transportation is furnished by the Quaintance and Messerly families. For information, contact Chase & Julie Stalford at maristellaspirit @ gmail . com or (210) 781-0254. Thank you to parishioners for your continued support of St Bernadette and St Mary youth.

### Mass of remembrance

In November, we remember our parishioners who died during the past year.

From St Mary Bremen:

George Foltz Richard Kessler

And from St Bernadette:

Robert Bell Louise Mathias Veral Kilbarger  
 Robert Benson Julia Lines David Butler  
 Diana Harris Jo Kiphen Joan Olson  
 Richard Schorr Josephine Hanaissian

At St Bernadette blessed candles surrounding our Book of Life burn as a reminder of prayer for them. The Mass of Remembrance on Saturday evening is a time to pray for them and to remember **the hope of eternal life that awaits us and our loved ones**. Also, an altar cloth with the names of deceased family members and

loved ones of St Bernadette parishioners covers our altar this month.

## friends forever

The next Friends Forever gathering happens on Thursday, Nov 16, at noon. Call Ann Essman at (740) 654-1893 for details.

### jillian's dinner: a note of thanks

Thank you to St Bernadette Parish family and friends for **your work and generous giving** to Jillian's Dinner. This year's dinner raised \$6,880 to help the family of Connie Tyler. Continue to pray for Connie, for all those who are ill, and for their caregivers.

## cemetery sunday and cemetery flowers

Cemetery Sunday is a time of prayer for our beloved dead. It will be observed on the last Sunday of October or the first Sunday of November. This year prayers will be offered

- at **St Mary Cemetery in Lancaster** today, Oct 29, at 1:30 PM (weather permitting) and
- at **Sacred Heart Cemetery** (near Bremen) next Sunday, Nov 5, at 1 PM (if weather doesn't permit, we will gather at the shelter at Schmelzer's Grove).

All are welcome to both services.

In both cemeteries **artificial flowers**, including stone top arrangements, are permitted from Nov 1 until Mar 1. Thank you for your cooperation. Thank you for helping keep our cemeteries **places of respect and Resurrection faith**.

## parish school of religion

At both St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary Parishes, PSR meets **each Sunday** at 9:30 AM. Catholic parents are reminded of their solemn moral duty to see that their children are properly and completely instructed in the Catholic Faith. They need to see that their **children attend regularly** (barring health or weather deterrents). Even if some weeks they are reluctant to attend, the children will find getting to know Jesus and his Church to be **an irreplaceable and joy-filled part of their upbringing**. And **parental firmness a blessing** that they may not acknowledge right away.

## representation

The pastor is requested to appoint

- two parishioners from each parish to represent their parish on the Fairfield / Hocking / Pickaway County **deanery pastoral council (DPC)**

The DPC meets **bi-monthly** on a Monday evening for about an hour at a different parish each meeting. Parishioners with some experience on parish pastoral council make especially good representatives because they can share and work together on concerns common to all of the parish communities.

He is on the lookout for St Bernadette parishioners to serve on the

- **Lancaster St Mary School Advisory Board** and
- **Fisher Catholic High School Advisory Board**.

The school boards each meet **monthly** in the evening during the school year. They serve to keep communications happening between their own parish and the Catholic schools.

Each rep is a volunteer appointed by the pastor for a fixed term. A school advisory board member need not be a parent or an alum of the school concerned. They help keep the pastor and the corresponding councils in our own parishes in the loop. Several of the positions are already staffed, but we always need a "strong bench" of people to help. Please call to notify Fr Kessler of your interest.

## at bremen st mary parish

### men's night out

The next Men's Night Out happens on Wednesday, Nov 15, in the St Mary Bremen parish hall at 6:30 PM. Enjoy dinner and a talk. Call Jim Schmelzer at (740) 215-3894 for information.

### christmas baskets

The Bremen Community Food Pantry is in need of **turkeys and cookies for Christmas** baskets for families. Drop off ...

- **cookies** on Thursday, Dec 14, between noon and 6 PM and
- **turkeys** on Saturday, Dec 16, at 8 AM at the Calvary United Methodist Church.
- bring **monetary donations** or **nonperishable food** items to Bremen St Mary Church.
- to make **other arrangements**, or if you can donate a turkey for the baskets, call Mary Shumaker at (740) 569-4796.

### bremen food pantry

The Bremen Food Pantry is always in **need of margarine or butter**. Donate at the refrigerator in the parish hall kitchen. The Food Pantry often holds an **open house** when **any family in need** can come for food assistance; no registration or sign up is needed. Also, if you know someone who would be helped by the gift of a Christmas basket, sign up at the **Next to New Sale** at the Methodist Church on Thursday, Nov 2, or Friday, Nov 3, from 9 AM to 5 PM, or Saturday, Nov 4, from 9 AM to noon. Baskets will be distributed on Saturday, Dec 16.

### st vincent de paul

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Bremen takes up a **collection after Mass next Sunday, as it does on the first Sunday** of each month. St Vincent always needs members. Call Angi Skinner at (740) 438-0027 if you can help.

### ministry at Mass at st mary

8:30 AM Sunday Mass	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Oct 29	Jeanne Schmelzer	Brooke Holt Jillian Wilkinson	Pam Redding, Joe & Cathy Young	Maurice Schmelzer family	Joe Young
All Saints Nov 1 NOON	Jeanne Schmelzer				Jim Schmelzer
All Souls Nov 2 8:20 AM	Jim Schmelzer				Jim Schmelzer
Nov 5	Barb VanFossen-Cook	Spencer Conrad Charles Schoenlaub	Neil Boch, Wyatt Borah, Barb VanFossen-Cook	Nick Schmelzer family	Jim Schmelzer

## at st bernadette parish

### our school and our veterans day

This year, St Bernadette School will honor our servicemen and women, past and present, in two ways.

- We are collecting food, snacks, toiletries, and entertainment items for Christmas **care-packages** that will be shipped, through Blue Star Mothers, **to local men and women serving abroad**. Donations may be placed in the collection boxes through Nov 10 on the table in the school entry hall.
- On Friday, Nov 10, a **patriotic assembly in honor of Veterans' Day** happens at 9:30 AM in the parish hall. Veterans, family and

friends are welcome to attend the assembly and enjoy songs, poems, and light refreshments. A wall of honor, displaying pictures of **veterans past and present**, will feature copies of photographs sent to school by Tuesday, Nov 7. Veterans planning to attend are asked to call the school office at (740) 654-3137. They are invited to wear their uniform or other apparel that proudly represents the branch of military in which they served.

Please pray for our troops, both veterans and currently serving!

## st vincent de paul 5<sup>th</sup> sunday collection

Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society thank you for your generous donations to their collection at the church doors last Sunday. The society **helps the needy** in the Lancaster area. They operate on income from their store and from your donations.

## ministry at Mass at st bernadette

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
<b>Saturday, 4:00 PM</b>	Marguerite Grimm	Kendall Cox, Becca Fuller, Addy Myers	Susan Garrett Kathy Kehnast Bob & Angie Christy	SandyLandefeld Craig Shaw
<b>Sunday, Oct 29 11:00 AM</b>	Scott Wood	Daniel Turner, Brooke & Bryson Vogel	Terry Carpenter Pat Dreyer Pat Gins	Ben Peters Larry Sanford Amy Woo
Monday, 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Kyndra Nagle, Daschel Neighbor	Patricia Dreyer Kathy Kehnast	
<b>All Saints Wednesday, 8:20 AM</b>	Bob Christy	Silus Hopkins, Isabelle Lazar	Angie Christy Mary Jane Vajen	
<b>All Saints Wednesday, 6 PM</b>	Brad Rider	Diana Woo, Sarah Woo	Rosalie DeFillippo Marguerite Grimm	
All Souls Thursday, 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Hyde O'Rielly, Olivia Reynolds	Lee Guinan Paul Lonergan	
First Friday, 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Morgan Cox, Amelia Robertson	Jim & Rita Merk	
First Saturday, 9 AM	Kara Tencza	Jack Tencza	Jim & Rita Merk	
<b>Saturday, 4:00 PM Mass of Remembrance</b>	Tara Craaybeek	Clara & Susan Craaybeek, Eve Darfus	Joyce Guenther Lee Guinan Jim & Becky Kuhn	Denise McGuire Kathy Wagner
<b>Sunday, Nov 5, 11:00 AM</b>	Dennis Forquer	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Nancy Griffith David Shonk Jim & Rita Merk	Anna Sevigny Teresa Scarpitti

## advent family fun day

Begin the Advent Season with an Advent Family Fun Day on Sunday, Dec 3, from 12-2 PM in the St Bernadette parish hall. There will be seasonal crafts and cookie making, as well as an opportunity to purchase Advent Wreaths and seasonal books. It will include a **Parish Family Lunch** pot luck; details about food and fun coming soon. Contact Kara Tencza at Kara . tencza @ gmail . com for information or to volunteer.

## youth choir

The **Saint Cecilia Society** (our parish youth choir) will begin its seventh season next Sunday, Nov 5, at 6 PM in the church. All parish students in grades 2-8 (public, parochial, or home school) are invited to join. SCS members in grades 4-8 are also invited to be members of the **Handbell Ensemble**, which meets Sunday evenings at 7 PM, immediately after the full SCS meeting. The Handbell Ensemble will have a special workshop this evening, Sunday, Oct 29, from 6:30-8 PM in the school meeting room. Mrs Latorre is happy to answer questions and provide registration materials. See her after Mass or call or text her at (740) 243-1872.

## adult choir

St Augustine once said that, "**he who sings prays twice**". The Saint Bernadette Adult Choir has begun practicing for the new church year on **Wednesdays at 7 PM** in the church. Our adult choir is both a vocal ensemble devoted to making beautiful music for the Lord and a small faith group within our parish family. We would love to welcome some new members into the group. Might membership in the choir be an opportunity for you to get more involved in the parish and grow in your faith? Contact Liz Latorre after Mass or call or text her at (740) 243-1872 if you have any questions.

## scholastic book fair

**Let's promote literacy** in our school and community. Hundreds of children's books, as well as religious books, adult best-sellers, and unique cookbooks, will be available for immediate purchase at the St Bernadette Scholastic Book Fair in the school library during the week of Nov 27-Dec 1, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 AM until 3:15 PM. The Book Fair will also be open before and after Vigil and Sunday Mass on Dec 2 and 3. Funds raised during this Book Fair will be used to **purchase new TVs and DVD players for our classrooms**, replacing our current televisions which are more than 20 years old. Any donation in lieu of book purchases will be gladly accepted in the school office.

## sandwich saturday

School has started and the students are serving our community by participating in the "Sandwich Saturday" program. This is a service project for students to live their discipleship by making **sandwiches for Foundation Dinners**, usually on **the last Thursday of each month**. The kids begin this service from an early age. Last month the kindergarten class provided the batch of sandwiches. Monetary donations, and donations of bread, lunch meat and wrapped cheese slices are always welcome and can be made through the school or parish office. Contact the school office for information at (740) 654-3137.

## here and there

### october is respect life month

"**Be Not Afraid**" is the theme of this year's program produced by the USCCB Office for Pro-Life Activities. The program packet includes thematic essays on timely topics, a resource guide with program models, poster, reflection, flyer, and catalogue. Materials are available at [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife).

### 2017 national vocations awareness week

Did you know that in our country, compared to 50 years ago, there are 20,000 fewer priests and 130,000 fewer religious sisters? At the same time, the Catholic population has continued to grow steadily. Many factors have contributed to the decline: growing secularism, a lengthened period of adolescence, attitudes about celibacy, etc. During National Vocation Awareness Week from November 5 – 11, please pray that young people in today's society will hear and respond to God's call. And do your part to encourage them to consider the priesthood and religious life. Moreover, one vocation leads to another. "Let us not forget that Christian marriage is a vocation to holiness in the full sense of the word, and that the example of holy parents is the first condition favorable for the flowering of priestly and religious vocations." (Pope Benedict XVI) Also, the Church recognizes that some people, for various reasons, are not called or cannot live in vocations such as marriage or consecrated life. Nonetheless, the Catechism says "they can contribute greatly to the good of the human family." (#2231) "Some live their situation in the spirit of

the Beatitudes, serving God and neighbor in exemplary fashion.” (CCC1658)

## angels nurture & disciple

**Angels Nurture & Disciple (AND)** reaches out to single mothers to provide emotional support and spiritual guidance in the form of a **Guardian Angel** (a mentor) at the most critical time in a woman’s life. Currently, AND has more single mothers in need than Guardian Angels to offer support and guidance. **They need your help.** Will you prayerfully consider these roles?

- guardian angel      baby shower host      testimony speaker
- meal provider      angel assistance      transporter

Visit [angelsAND.org](http://angelsAND.org), or contact Gina @ [angelsAND.org](mailto:angelsAND.org).

## 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 recent Fisher Catholic alum, invites you to join him on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Feb 21-Mar 2. Cost is \$3179 per person, with meals, fees, and tips included. Contact Aimee Walton at [frnicpilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:frnicpilgrimage@gmail.com) or (740) 225-6136.

## in the diocese of columbus

### day of reflection

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) will sponsor a day of reflection on Saturday, Nov 18, from 11 AM-1 PM, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Grove City. Diana Marie Winkler will speak on “**Preparing the Woman Within for Advent.**” Cost is \$25 @ person, which includes lunch. To register, send your name, address, e-mail, and phone number, along with payment, to DCCW, 197 E Gay St, Columbus, OH, 43215, by Friday, Nov 10. If you have questions, call Mickey McCormick at (614) 783-5555 or contact the DCCW office at (614) 228-8601.

### josephinum lecture

The Pontifical College Josephinum invites you to attend a talk on Wednesday, Nov 15, at 7 PM at the Jessing Center on **Learning from Luther: Penitential Living toward Holiness** by renowned Catholic expert on the Reformation, Father Jared Wicks, SJ, Scholar-in-Residence at the Josephinum. This is part of the

seminary’s 2017-2018 lecture series, “Building Spiritual Bridges to the Community.” Visit [pcj.edu](http://pcj.edu) for updates.

## catholic men’s luncheon club

The next Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club will feature a talk by Shawn Malone, a parishioner at St John Neumann Parish in Sunbury, on Friday, Nov 3, at St Patrick Church in downtown Columbus. Shawn and his wife founded **Back In His Arms Again** in 2005. Shawn will share their journey of being parents to seven wonderful children here on earth, as well as two in heaven, and how this ministry started with a simple request, “We want to bury our baby.” Mass at 11:45 AM will be followed by lunch and Shawn’s talk until about 1 PM. No reservations are necessary; \$10 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend. For information on Catholic Men’s Luncheons, visit [www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc](http://www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc) or contact George Harvey, CMLC President, at [george@tvssohio.com](mailto:george@tvssohio.com).

## interactive weekend retreat for men

The Catholic Laymen’s Retreat League sponsors this retreat with the theme: “**An Eagle’s Flight: Following Jesus in the Gospel of John**” directed by **Father John Corbett, OP**, on Nov 3-5, at St Therese Retreat Center in Columbus. The retreat centers on **the Gospel of John** and on his presentation of Jesus as the Word of God, the Lamb of God, the Bread of Life, the Good Shepherd, the True Vine, and the Way, the Truth and the Life. The conferences aim to renew personal knowledge and love of him as he speaks to men through his beloved disciple. A contribution of \$150 covers the cost. Contact Dave Mignerey at (614) 392-0146 for information or reservations, or visit [www.retreatleague.org](http://www.retreatleague.org).

## SPICE Mass

St Catharine Church, Columbus, in partnership with the SPICE (**Special People in Catholic Education**) ministry, will host a **Mass for people with special needs** on Sunday, Nov 5, at 11 AM; Mass will be followed by a reception. To encourage an inclusive, welcoming environment, there will be sign language interpretation, wheelchair accessibility, and low gluten hosts for those with dietary restrictions. It is hoped that lay ministry roles at the Mass can be filled by individuals with special needs. Individuals with special needs currently serving in a parish as an altar server, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, lector, or cantor may contact St Catherine Parish.

# October is Respect Life Month!

### nearby confessions & weekday Mass

**But these times sometimes change, so be sure to call ahead!**

parish	confessions	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Bremen St Mary</i>	8 AM Sunday		8:20 AM				
<i>Lancaster St Bernadette</i>	5:30 PM Thursday, 3 PM Saturday; 8:30 AM on 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	on 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturdays @ 9 AM
<i>Lancaster St Mary</i>	4 PM Saturday	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		
<i>Lancaster St Mark</i>	5:30 PM Saturday	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM	
<i>Sugar Grove St Joseph</i>	½ hour before Mass	VARIABLE	NOON	7 PM	NOON	NOON	
<i>Circleville St Joseph</i>	4 PM Saturday	9 AM	7 PM	9 AM		9 AM	
<i>Logan St John</i>	4 PM Saturday	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM
<i>Fisher Catholic HS</i>	on first Fridays @ 2 PM in chapel						on 1 <sup>st</sup> Fridays @ 2:40 PM

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# Pornography: Call a Plague a Plague

Do you know about *My House*? My House is an initiative to protect families, support those struggling with pornography, and help individuals and couples to turn away from the abuse to their sexuality that pornography leads to. My House offers resources for the protection of the integrity of families. It is an avenue of healing for those who begin to understand the beauty of our sexuality.

Pornography has always been a bad idea. It is about lust, and Jesus said that to lust is akin to the act of adultery. The Christian Church has been against it for as long as it has been in existence. But things about *pornography have been changing*. Not the badness part, but the availability and the amount of damage it can do. There was a time, not so very long ago, when it was easy to decide that people who railed against porn were making a mountain out of a molehill, that they were upset over anything that gave anybody else pleasure, that they were “legislating morality.” Even if it was really wrong, they argued, it was a “victimless crime.” In fact, there was hardly any such thing as pornography until the advent of cheap printing of books and especially of pictures and films. Things really sped up with the amazingly fast development of the web, the smart phone, social media.

And, wouldn't you know, those developments were accompanied by *the explosion of the sexual revolution*, the neglect in the Christian churches of the basic (and permanent) teaching about human sexuality. And there has been neglect of the practice of this humane (and did I mention permanent?) teaching by the people and even by their teachers. The disaster caused by this sexual revolution is worth our pondering. But for now, let's focus on how it has infected our minds with extremely accessible electronic pictures.

The pornography industry has an *annual revenue* of \$57 billion world-wide, \$12 billion of which is in the United States. So-called “adult” videos bring in \$20 billion; internet pornography is a \$2.5 billion business. Million, billion, trillion — we're starting to get jaded about these numbers. Here is what the numbers mean: Porn revenue is larger than the combined revenues of all professional football, baseball and basketball franchises in our country; it's greater than the combined revenues of ABC, CBS, and NBC. On the internet there are now (or there were recently, but the growth is explosive) 4.2 million pornographic websites; that's 12% of the total number of websites.

And the traffic? There are 68 million searches of these sites each day; that's 25% of total search engine requests. But it's “*victimless, you say?*” One hundred thousand of these websites offer illegal child pornography. The average age of the first internet exposure to pornography is now 8 years old. Thirty-one percent of young people from 8 to 18 have a computer in their bedroom (a very bad idea), and one child in five has an internet connection there. Nine children in ten have viewed internet porn, most of these while doing homework.

Porn increasingly involves women as well as men. One woman in eight admits to accessing pornography at work. One third of women visit “adult” websites, over 9 million accessing them monthly. They are increasingly like men in their willingness to act out their behaviors. About a fifth of men admit to accessing pornography at work. Forty million US adults *regularly visit internet pornography websites*.

Christians are beginning to notice. Forty seven percent of them say pornography is *a major problem in the home*. Here is what *the Catechism* of the Catholic Church has to say about pornography:

Pornography consists in removing real or simulated sexual acts from the intimacy of the partners, in order to display them deliberately to third parties. It offends against chastity because it perverts the conjugal act, the intimate giving of spouses to each other. It does grave injury to the dignity of its participants (actors, vendors, and the public), since each one becomes an object of base pleasure and illicit profit for others. It immerses *all* who are involved in the illusion of a fantasy world. It is a grave offense. Civil authorities should prevent the production and distribution of pornographic materials. CCC #2354

*Pornography is addictive*. It dominates a life, demanding an accelerating fix of ever-increasing “doses.” It degrades women. And men, too. The partner is treated as an object, a toy, whose attractiveness is increasingly limited to what pleasure it provides instead of the woman's dignity as a potential wife and mother, the husband's dignity as potential husband and father. The performers may have been required by their masters to act as if they find this situation acceptable or they may have become so coarsened that they doesn't realize that they have become things. This is not God's plan. It doesn't make for a society with successful families. The same basic problem works for same sex porn and for porn viewed by men or women.

*Pornography leads to other problems*. There have been studies that show that when people see other people treated as objects, they begin to treat them that way. They become more sexually aggressive, leading to date rapes and expected “hook-ups.” It harms marriages and the prospects for future marriages. It doesn't enhance but cheapens sex. And it becomes a substitute for sexual intimacy with one's spouse. It cripples a spiritual life, increasingly leaving its mark on the memory and the imagination. That crowds God out of the picture.

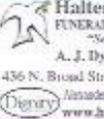
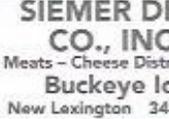
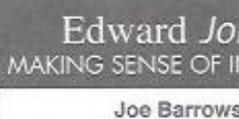
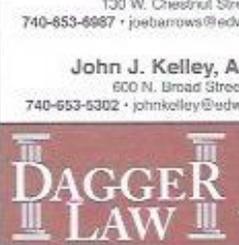
*What can we do* about this plague? There are things that society can—and should—do, legally and otherwise. But what can a man or woman, a parent or a spouse, anyone who has—or whose loved one has—fallen into this addiction do? It's a sin and sinners can go to Confession. In fact, if they are using pornography, they must go to *Confession* before approaching Holy Communion. There is forgiveness, for any sinner who determines to return to the path of virtue.

And there is My House of Columbus. The web isn't only a place where sin abounds! *Visit MyHouseColumbus.org* or call them on their confidential hotline at (888) 989-9886.

And *pray* for renewal!

—Father Kessler

*Much of the material was adapted from <http://www.myhousecolumbus.net/>*

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