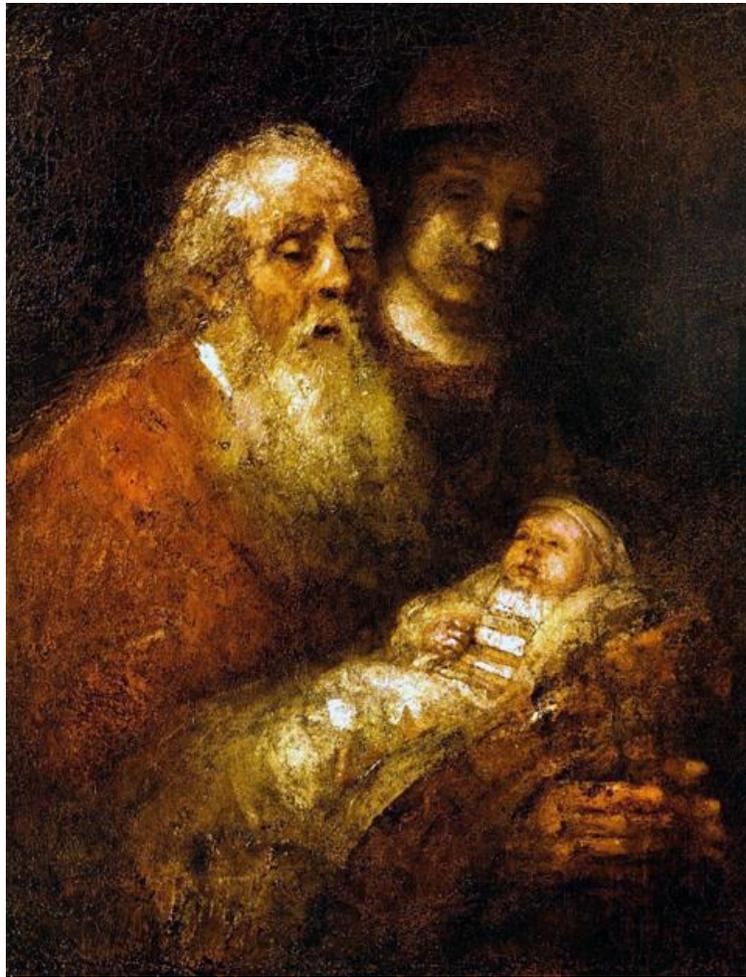


Lancaster St Bernadette Parish Bremen St Mary Parish



Simeon with the Infant Jesus in the Temple

Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.

The prayer of Simeon in today's gospel reading

December 31, 2017: the Feast of the Holy Family

and

January 1, 2018: the Feast of the Motherhood of Mary, Mother of God

St Bernadette Parish.

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

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

cover picture: **Simeon's Song of Praise** painted (1669) in oil on canvas by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606–1669)

in the National Museum, Stockholm

our parishes

Father Thomas Kessler (614) 634 • 0499 [wmthomaskessler @ icloud.com](mailto:wthomaskessler@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)
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Ann Essman (740) 653 • 9347 [aessman001 @ att . net](mailto:aessman001@att.net)
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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](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 • 7738

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

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

Saint Bernadette School is located at

1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701

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

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

Lancaster St Vincent de Paul Society [www . svdplancasteroh . com](http://www.svdplancasteroh.com)

Bremen St Vincent de Paul (740) 569-7738

Diocese of Columbus [www . columbuscatholic . org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org)

Angels Nurture & Disciple (AND) [www angelsAND . org](http://www.angelsAND.org)

St Mary Parish.

602 Marietta Street (740) 569 • 7738
BREMEN, OH 43107

sacramental life

Baptism

To have a child baptized, you must register and attend a class as a couple (unless attendance just isn't possible, in which case some discussion with Kathy Kehnast will be necessary). Sessions are held quarterly for both parishes. Try to 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 having 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.



At Mass this Sunday the Church Prays

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. 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 this Monday the Church Prays

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, 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 January the Pope Asks Us to Pray

That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

Listen to God's Word and Honor His Saints

Sunday, Dec 31, Holy Family	Sirach 3:2-14 Colossians 3:12-21	Ps 128 Luke 2:22-40
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Mon, Jan 1 Motherhood of Mary	Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7	Ps 67 Luke 2:16-21
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Tues, Jan 2	1 John 2:22-28	Ps 98	John 1:19-28
<i>Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors of the Church</i>			
Weds, Jan 3	1 John 2:29-3:6	Ps 98	John 1:29-34
<i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>			
Thurs, Jan 4	1 John 3:7-10	Ps 98	John 1:35-42
<i>Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious</i>			
Fri, Jan 5	1 John 3:11-21	Ps 100	John 1:43-51
<i>Saint John Neumann, bishop</i>			
Sat, Jan 6	1 John 5:5-13	Ps 147	Mark 1:7-11
<i>Saint André Bessette, religious</i>			

Sunday, Jan 7, Epiphany of the Lord	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-6	Ps 72 Matthew 2:1-12
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Mass Intentions This Week

Monday, Jan 1		for the people	at both parishes
Tuesday, Jan 2	8:20 AM	Helen Kunkler	at Bremen St Mary
Wednesday, Jan 3	8:20 AM	Paul Gallagher	at St Bernadette
Thursday, Jan 4	6 PM	deceased	
		of Sevigny family	at St Bernadette
Friday, Jan 5	8:20 AM	Robert Berens	at St Bernadette
Saturday, Jan 6	9 AM	Todd Householder	at St Bernadette

at Both Parishes

Catholic Foundation News

Giving becomes convenient and personal with a **Donor Advised Fund**, which offers a **hands-on approach to philanthropy**. This fund invests your charitable gift to grow tax-free for future giving. It lets you make contributions to multiple Catholic or public organizations from one account, and it can be set up with as little as \$5,000. It is convenient and flexible, with these key benefits:

- Immediate tax deduction with the option of deferred charitable distribution
- Consolidates your charitable giving, providing administrative convenience

- Flexibility to choose multiple grant recipients
- Ability to add to the fund at any time
- Make donations anonymously, if desired
- Wish to create a family legacy of faith—name your children, grandchildren or other loved ones as successor advisors to the fund

Generosity and acts of charity are family traits. Think about engaging all generations of your family in your giving.

Tax deductions are important for donor and nonprofit alike: the nonprofit receives more of the donation since it's not taxed, and the donor reduces his or her taxable income. Below are 5 end-of-year giving tips from the Foundation to you!

- **Establishing a donor-advised fund** (see above) allows donors to give a set amount that can be applied to this tax year, yet be structured and distributed to selected nonprofits of your choice in the future.
- **Don't forget about estate planning.** If you have not already set one up, establishing an estate plan is one more way to receive tax benefits. Is your will up-to-date? Planning ahead of time allows you to strategically give to charities that matter most to you.
- **The charitable gift annuity** is partially income tax-deductible, and payments to you are typically partially income tax-free. Capital gains tax on a portion of a stock gift is usually eliminated and the rest of the gain is spread over your estimated life expectancy. The assets remaining after your or a loved one's lifetime will support the charitable interests you have specified.
- **Establish a charitable remainder trust.** You contribute assets to the trust, which makes specified payments to you. You or multiple individuals receive the trust's payments, which can be a fixed dollar amount or a variable amount. Following the lifetimes of the individuals, the remaining balance transfers to your fund where you have specified your philanthropic interests.
- **A gift of appreciated securities** held longer than one year enables the donor to be eligible for an immediate income tax deduction based on the asset's fair market value on the date of the gift. It also enables donors to avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation in value of the shares given.

For information contact Scott Hartman at The Catholic Foundation at (614) 443-8893 or shartman@catholic-foundation.org.

Mass Schedule for New Year's Day

The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

At St Mary in Bremen:

Monday, Jan 1, at 8:30 AM

At St Bernadette:

Monday, Jan 1, at 11 AM

Remember: although usually a holy day of obligation, the obligation to attend Mass on Jan 1 this year is dispensed because it occurs on a Monday. But can you think of a good reason not to begin a new year with Mass?

Representatives

The pastor is **still** 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 looking 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. Let Fr Kessler of your interest.

Seasonal Giving and Seasonal Getting

Packets of offering **envelopes for 2018** are available on the table in the parish hall. If you do not find a packet with your name, take one of the packets without a name on it but with the lowest serial number. Write your name and the number of the packet on the paper for new envelopes. Just after Christmas we will mail out the remaining packets at a cost of over \$3-4 apiece. Please save your parish that expense by picking up your packet today.

When you have taken your envelopes, please also take a **2018 Catholic calendar**, given to our parishes courtesy of **Morgan Funeral Home** in Bremen and **Sheridan Funeral Home** in Lancaster and **Frank E. Smith Funeral Home** in Lancaster. It wouldn't hurt to thank these businesses for their generosity.

So Says the IRS

Remember: Donations must be received by the parish today for them to be credited to 2017. So says the IRS.

A Better Way to Ring in the New Year

You could shout “Happy New Year” from your front porch. You could go to a party or to a bar. You could sit at home and watch television. You could be with family or friends. You could be alone and maudlin. Or you could just go to church and, **in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament**, begin the New Year in the happiness of prayer. A few parishioners are going to gather **at St Bernadette for an hour of prayer, from 11:30 PM on Dec 31 until 12:30 AM on Jan 1**. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the main altar. There will be no refreshments, no bells rung, or fireworks exploded. We will not watch our clocks or interrupt prayer to greet each other at the turn of the year. It will just be a quiet hour or so of adoration of the Eucharistic Lord, of atonement for our sins of the preceding year, and of fervent request for peace, prosperity, and renewal of our respect for the holy gift of life in the new year. Church doors will be open shortly before 11:30, and close up again soon after 12:30.

Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Sunday Jan 21 is renewal day for membership in the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. To join, use your collection envelope for “**Membership Sunday**.” It is included in your envelope packet. Members of the society receive the graces of 15,000 Masses celebrated each day by missionaries for its members—living or dead. Mass is also celebrated daily for society members at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Christmas Catholic Charities Collection

The annual Catholic Charities Christmas Collection **allows our diocese to meet a variety of basic needs** directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations including JOIN (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs), St Stephen's Community House, Catholic Social Services, St Francis Center, St Lawrence Haven, St Vincent Family Center, and the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Your generous support last Sunday made Christmas celebrations in many central Ohio homes merrier.

at Bremen St Mary Parish

Celebrate the Merriness of the Season

Please join us for the Bremen St Mary Epiphany Gathering on Saturday, Jan 6, at 6 PM in the Parish Hall. This is an event for all the adults and children who worship at our parish—especially the new ones! Dinner will be served, but we will only know how many to prepare for when you sign up on the bulletin board in the vestibule telling how many will attend. Call Jodie Schmelzer with any questions at (740) 569-9343.

St Vincent de Paul

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Bremen takes up a **collection 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

December 31 - January 7	lector	servers	extraordinary ministrars of Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Holy Family Sunday, Dec 31 at 8:30 AM	Karen Wolfe	Caden & Cody Fyffe	Irene Kunkler, Dismas Schmelzer, Karen Wolfe	Nick Schmelzer family	Joe Young
Mother of God Monday, Jan 1 at 8:30 AM	Jeanne Schmelzer	Isaac Schmelzer	Irene Kunkler, Joe & Cathy Young	Maurice Schmelzer family	Joe Young
Epiphany Sunday, Jan 7 at 8:30 AM	Joe Young	Carly Kunkler, & Nicole Terry	Angi Skinner, Joe & Cathy Young	Joe Young family	Jim Schmelzer

at St Bernadette Parish

Lancaster St Vincent de Paul

The Society has a new website; you can learn about the many activities of the Lancaster St Vincent de Paul Society at www.svdplancasteroh.com. Because of all the activities at this time of year, the members of the Lancaster St Vincent de Paul Conference have decided **not to have a 5th Sunday collection** today. Their next 5th Sunday collection will be on Apr 28 & 29. They thank us for our support and generosity this year. They could not continue their mission without it.

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. 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.



Ministry at Mass at St Bernadette

December 31- January 7	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion
Saturday, Dec 30, at 4 PM Vigil of the Holy Family	Sandy Landefeld	Mallory, Mason & Mitchell Ortiz	Lee Guinan Kathy Kehnast Jim & Becky Kuhn Denise McGuire Kathy Wagner
Sunday, Dec 31, at 11 AM Feast of the Holy Family	Dennis Forquer	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Terry Carpenter Pat Dreyer John Hartig Jean Robertson Larry Sanford David Shonk
Monday, Jan 1, at 11 AM Mother of God	Jim Merk	Collin & Emma McCrady, Daniel Turner	Patrick Gins Nancy Griffith Rita Merk Anna Sevigny Mary Jane Vajen Becky Wickham
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Morgan Cox Amelia Robertson	Angie Christy Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Kyndra Nagle Olivia Reynolds	Lee Guinan Paul Lonergan
Friday, 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Isabelle Lazar Hyde O'Rielley	Rita Merk Mary Jane Vajen
Saturday, 9 AM	Kara Tencza	Jack Tencza	Jim & Rita Merk
Saturday, Jan 6, at 4 PM Vigil of the Epiphany	Bob Christy	Logan & Tori Loy, Gunner Robertson	Teresa Carpenter Rosalie DeFillippo Joyce Guenther Denise McGuire Craig Shaw Kathy Wagner
Sunday, Jan 7, at 11 AM Feast of the Epiphany	Tara Craaybeek	Clara & Susan Craaybeek, Eve Darfus	John & Teresa Hartig Teresa Scarpitti David Shonk Becky Wickham Amy Woo

Here and There

Angels Nurture & Disciple (AND)

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 the life of women who have chosen life for their unborn babies. Have you ever been in such a woman's shoes? Or known someone you cared about who was? Perhaps you can help a single mother in need. A young lady, who recently gave birth to twins and moved into her first apartment, needs these gently used or new home items:

bathroom towels drinking glasses a toddler bed frame
a vacuum cleaner a television end tables
curtains a coffee table.

If you could assist with any of these items or donate a gift card to purchase home goods, contact Kristin Garrabrant at Kristin@angelsAND.org or at (740) 475-9145.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Have you considered adding a new dimension of understanding regarding your Christian history and the life of Jesus? Father Nic Ventura invites you to join him on a 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. Cost is \$3179 per person. For information, contact Aimee Walton frnicpilgrimage@gmail.com or (740) 225-6136.

Pilgrimage to Washington DC

Join **Bishop Monforton and the Franciscan TOR Sisters of the Diocese of Steubenville** on a pilgrimage to Washington DC on Oct 24-26. Visit the shrine of St John Paul II, the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, Arlington Cemetery and the historic monuments of the nation's capital. The cost, which includes roundtrip motorcoach transportation, all tours and sightseeing, two nights hotel accommodation, daily Mass, and several meals is \$525. Space is limited, so book by Feb 1 by calling Sandy at (734) 565-8888 x 122 or book online at www.ctscentral.net, trip code: 12596, group code: 7311.

in the Diocese of Columbus

From the Chair

This is a pre-recorded show of Bishop Campbell (think "**the best of the Bishop**") with students from eight of our Catholic high schools from the Columbus diocese for the annual high school student forum. Tune to St Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820 from 5-6 PM on Tuesday, Jan 2.

Respect Life !

All over our country people are gathering on January 22 to remember the anniversary of the infamous Supreme Court decision permitting abortion. All over our country, the Church **observes a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**. In Columbus, Bishop Campbell will celebrate the annual Respect Life Mass on Monday, Jan 22, at 10:30 AM at St Joseph Cathedral.

Following that Mass, from noon to 1 PM, Greater Columbus Right to Life invites you to the State Capital Building for a **Roe Remembrance in the Statehouse Atrium**. Allow extra time for new Statehouse security measures; stickers, signs, and weapons are not permitted inside. For information, visit www.gertl.org/roe.html. www.usccb.org/prolife or contact Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

Building a Culture of Life :

A Conference on Respect for Life, Bioethics, Leadership

The Diocesan Office for Social Concerns, Marriage & Family Life Office, and Greater Columbus Right to Life will hold a two-day event featuring prominent **pro-life speakers** and offering **resources to build a culture of life**, at St Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Rd, Columbus, on Jan 26 & 27. One-day or two-day passes are available. For a list of speakers and to register, visit www.gertl.org/lifeconference or call (614) 241-2540.

Men's Conference and Women's Conference

There are big events coming on Saturdays in February you won't want to miss. At each of these, Bishop Campbell will celebrate Mass and priests of the diocese will provide opportunities for Penance. There will be **entertainment, interesting displays, and lots of fellowship** with a thousand or two of the most interesting people in central Ohio. Put these days on your calendar now.

- Women of our diocese will gather on Feb 17. Their theme: "**Ask Jesus What He Wants from You and Be Brave.**" Speakers are Uju Ekeocha, Lisa Hendey, the Labodas, and Fr Mazanowski.
- Men will meet on Feb 24. And their theme: "**Cast Your Nets... Become Fishers of Men**"

Speakers are Jeff Cavins, Dr Scott Hahn, and Chris Stefanick.

Both events will take place at the Ohio Expo Center at the Ohio fairgrounds in Columbus.

Priest, Prophet, King

St Mary Parish in Lancaster will present the adult education DVD series “**Priest, Prophet, King**” by Bishop Robert Barron on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 PM from January through April. It will take a deep Biblical look at Jesus Christ as the ultimate priest, prophet, and king. You will better understand Jesus through Sacred Scripture, and realize your own priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission in Him. Registration is available at stmarylancaester.org. Workbook cost is \$27. Registrations and payment are due to the St Mary Rectory by Tuesday, Jan 2. For information, contact Brian McCauley at (740) 653-5054.

Catholic Record Society

The Catholic Record Society was founded in 1974 to preserve the history of the Church in central Ohio and to bring into better light **the heroism of those who laid the foundation of the diocese** of Columbus. The society supports the diocesan archives, maintaining a wide variety of materials and records. They respond to individuals seeking **genealogical information or historical information** on the diocese’s parishes, institutions, religious orders, and clergy. Meetings are held quarterly; members receive a calendar year subscription to the monthly bulletin, *Barquilla de la Santa Maria*, which contains records, accounts and illuminations of the people and events in the diocese. Membership is \$12 with digital bulletin, \$25 with paper bulletin; an institutional subscription is \$35. Send check or money order before Dec 31 to the Catholic Record Society, 197 E Gay Street, Columbus, OH, 43215. For information contact

Mike Finn at fcoolavin@aol.com, (614) 268-4166, or visit <http://www.columbuscatholic.org/catholic-record-society>.

Catholic Man of the Year

The Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club is accepting nominations for the Diocese of Columbus 2018 Catholic Man of the Year. This annual award—to be presented by Bishop Campbell on Friday, Feb 2—recognizes one lay man who, through his daily actions, words, and prayers, exemplifies the “**good and faithful servant**”. The recipient will share his personal testimony during the ceremony.

Natural Family Planning

Whether God is calling you to try to **achieve or to postpone pregnancy**, Natural Family Planning (NFP) can help a married couple **live God’s plan for love and life**, while strengthening the marriage relationship. Engaged and married couples can learn NFP. Go to www.columbuscatholic.org/natural-family-planning or contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Come to a Marriage Encounter weekend and learn ways to use your marriage’s ups and downs to deepen your love for each other and for God. Why not **try a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend**? The next weekend in central Ohio is Feb 16-18. For information or to register, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit www.wmcecolumbus.org.



Weekly Confessions & Weekday Mass

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

parish	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	penance
Bremen St Mary	8:20						8 Sun
Lancaster St Bernadette	8:20		8:20	6	8:20	9 on 1 st Sat	5:30 Thu, 3 Sat, 8:30 on 1st Sat
<i>Lancaster St Mary</i>	7	9	7	9			4 Sat
<i>Lancaster St Mark</i>	8	8	6	8	8		5:30 Sat
<i>Sugar Grove St Joseph</i>	VARIES	NOON	7	NOON	NOON		½ hour before Mass
<i>Circleville St Joseph</i>	9	7	9		9		4 Sat
<i>Logan St John</i>	8	8	9		8	9	4 Sat
<i>Fisher Catholic HS</i>						2:40 on Fri	2 on 1 st Fri

Children at Mass

It is great to see very young people at Mass. Even to hear them. But parents need to train their children in the appropriate times to kneel, sit, stand, and face the altar. Sometimes, through no fault of yours or theirs, they make too much noise and have to be removed from the church **for a few minutes**. But **bring them back**. And **don’t bring toys or finger food** to distract or pacify them. Those solve a short term issue, but compound a longer term problem.

Making sure they are entertained at all times in church sends the message that they are there to be entertained. We are grateful when they are not engaged in playing with toys, or eating and drinking. Those things get in the way of **teaching children that Jesus is there on the altar and how important it is to participate in the Mass**. Food and toys don’t help. They are **ways to postpone teaching children about what really matters** in church.



The Holy Family and Catholic Teaching about *Your* Family

God is interested in the family. No, that's putting it much too mildly. **Family is at the heart of his communication to humans about what it means to be a human being and about how we are to understand God.**

For instance, family shows up in a **starring role in the Bible**. From the very creation, **God made them male and female**, because it was not good for them to be alone. That was his idea. And it was with a meaning altogether deeper than the maleness and femaleness of the plants and animals. Then God prepared us for the salvation he was going to bring us in Christ by calling some people (Abraham and Sarah) to be involved in **making a special family**. God's concern was much more generous than just having a personal and individual relationship with a lot of individuals (a relationship which he does want us to have). And he didn't invent a club or a government into being. He rose up Abraham to be the father of a people. That people developed other aspects (like a language, a culture, and government), but it never stopped being first and foremost a family. To this day the people of Israel has never ceased to be that family which was especially God's own.

And all our Christmas celebration of the coming of Jesus puts a lot of stress on how he was situated right in the heart of a family. Both of the two Gospels that tell the Christmas story (Matthew and Luke) make a big deal out of the genealogy of Jesus. **This is how Jesus is truly man.** And the **Holy Family** of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph was the **context for his living among us** as Emmanuel.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced (in) wisdom and age and favor before God and man. *Luke 2:51-52*

When he let us **listen to him at prayer**, we heard him speaking to God not as the King or the almighty one (which he certainly is) but as his own Father, his "Abba" or "Dad." **That is how Jesus is truly God.** And our relatedness to him is ratified by the words of Jesus to his close friend, the Beloved Disciple, and to his mother Mary. To him he says, "Behold your Mother"; to her, "Behold your Son."

Family keeps cropping up in the **Catechism**. In the **four pillars** of that official book of the teaching of the Catholic Church (the Creed, the Sacraments, the Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer), family is not just an interesting sideline, a curious sociological phenomenon; it is at the heart of the matter.

The shape of the **Creed**. Look at how the Creed is organized: "I believe in God the Father ... and in God the Son ... and in God the Holy Spirit" It got its start as the prayerful assertion of belief in the fundamentals of Baptism. The person who is about to be baptized "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (which is how Jesus said we are to be initiated into his life), as well as the person who has already been baptized and now needs to grow into that life, recalls that it is a family sort of thing. That's the shape of all of our Christian faith.

Two of the **Sacraments**. **Baptism** is an adoption of a person as a daughter or son of the heavenly Father. In the process the person takes Jesus, the Lord, as a brother. And **Matrimony** models the union of a man and a woman in a union of self-giving love. This is what marriage is meant to be for us. What Saint Paul has to say about this model is not very popular these days because of a misunderstanding of Christ as domineering, of the Christian as groveling; that forgets that his love is the generous kind and it has filled our submission with a fine dignity.

Husbands, **love your wives**, even as **Christ loved the church** and handed himself over for her So (also) husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. ... This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband. *Ephesians 5:24-30*

Three of the **Commandments**. There is **one commandment** about the **honor of a family** (Honor thy father and thy mother), one about **the beauty and sacredness of the marriage bed**, (Thou shalt not commit adultery), and one about the **respect due to our neighbor's marriage** (Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife).

The **addressee** of the **Lord's Prayer**. And finally, there is the obvious message about family in the prayer which Jesus taught us when he let us be joined to his amazing and unique way of being related to the Heavenly Father by teaching us "the Lord's Prayer"—but not just teaching us the words of a prayer formula, but giving us **that energizing Spirit that makes it possible for us to be speaking the truth when we call God our own Father**. When Saint Paul spoke about his own praying to the heavenly Father, he told us "... I kneel before **the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named** ..." (Ephesians 3:14-15). In a nutshell, God isn't a father because we decided to call him that after something we see as a model. No, he is **the original Father**, and he is the source of meaning for our relatedness to each other. It is **not for us to redesign the family**. It is **our job to rediscover the original pattern**. And to live up to it.

— *Father Kessler*

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