



“Depart from me, Lord, for I am a Sinful man”

Peter's response to the miraculous draft of fish.
The scene of today's holy Gospel reading.
painted (1545) in oil on canvas by Jacopo Bassano (1515-1592)

National Gallery of Art, Washington

The 5th Sunday

February 7, 2016

Saint Bernadette Parish

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

Saint Mary Parish

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

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 Kehnst will be necessary). Sessions are held quarterly for both parishes. The next session will be Mar 16. Try to take the class before the child is born. If you are expecting, call Kathy to register for the class.

Please don't ask if you "have to go." This is an opportunity to meet with parents of children about the same age as your little one; they are in the same wonderful boat as you are.

At least one parent must be a practicing Catholic. Both godparents need to be practicing Christians, at least one a practicing Catholic. If you don't attend Sunday Mass regularly, there is something you can do about it: Start coming to Sunday Mass.

PENANCE

The priest is available for Penance

- at St Bernadette Saturdays at 3 PM and Thursdays at 5:30 PM, and
- at St Mary Bremen on Sunday at 8 AM.

In addition to Advent and Lenten Penance Services, every Catholic priest is available whenever there is a need. We are beginning to provide Penance opportunities for parochial school children several more times during the year so that they will learn the beauty of frequent confession. The Church's law requires us to receive the sacrament of Penance at least once a year.

ANOINTING AND CARE OF THE SICK

The Sick receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick when dangerously ill, facing major surgery, or suffering from the ravages of old age.

We celebrate the sacrament communally at a Sunday Mass before Advent and during the Easter season so that we can all pray with you for "health of mind and body."

And, we are happy to bring Penance, Anointing, and Holy Communion to the homes or hospitals of the sick or shut in. It is very helpful to call the parish office to let us know before a hospitalization or when it has been too long since the sacraments were last available.

HOLY MATRIMONY

Couples wishing to marry should contact the parish office six months before they wish to celebrate the sacrament. Why so long? Because this sacrament, not just the ceremony, requires serious preparation. And the Church needs to be involved in that preparation.

The Church wishes to support couples through the years of their married life. For this reason our diocese offers programs to enhance married life. To learn about these programs, watch the weekly bulletin.

Our Parishes

FATHER THOMAS KESSLER pastor
(614) 634-0499 wnthomaskessler@icloud.com

AT ST BERNADETTE PARISH

MARK SCARPITTI 438-3970
deacon dcn.mark@frontier.com
JEFF CARPENTER 681-9918
deacon carpenter.277@osu.edu
ANN ESSMAN 653-9347
pastoral minister aessman001@att.net
STEVE HUBER 654-3137
facilities coordinator shuber57@yahoo.com
LIZ LATORRE 243-1872
liturgical music lizlatorre@gmail.com

The St Bernadette Parish office is in the Mary Good Center, across the back parking lot from the school.

Hours are: 9 AM-1 PM, MWThF; 11 AM-1 PM, Tu.
1343 Wheeling Rd NE,
Lancaster, OH 43130-8701 (740) 654-1893

AT BREMEN ST MARY PARISH

BEN FACTOR
liturgical music b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us
JIM SCHMELZER
maintenance chair
TYNA FOX-SCHMELZER (614) 371-7702
religious education coordinator schmelifox@earthlink.net

The St Mary Parish office is at the church vestibule.

Hours are 9-11 AM, Tu.
602 Marietta St,
Bremen, OH 43107 (740) 569-7929

AT BOTH PARISHES

NIKKI SCHMELZER 654-1893
bookkeeper businessmstbparish@yahoo.com
KATHY KEHNAST 654-1893
pastoral coordinator stbernparish@yahoo.com
ANGIE & KENT KERNS 654-2588
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AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

PAM ELTRINGHAM
principal peltring@cducation.org
BARB HUBER
secretary bhuber@cducation.org
Saint Bernadette School is located at
1325 Wheeling Rd, 654-3137
Lancaster, OH 43130-8701 www.stbernadetteschool.com
stbernlan@cducation.org

let us pray

PRAY WITH THE POPE DURING FEBRUARY

His universal intention concerns the care of creation:

That we may take good care of creation—a gift freely given—cultivating and protecting it for future generations.

His prayer for evangelization this month is especially for the mission of the Church in Asia:

That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia.

COLLECT FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unflinching care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

the holy season of Lent

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is Feb 10. Ashes will be imposed during:

- St Bernadette at 8:20 AM and at noon Masses and
- St Mary at 6 PM Mass.

Solemn exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Bernadette will occur after morning Mass as usual. Benediction and reposition will be early this week, at 11:45 AM.

WAY OF THE CROSS

On all the Fridays of Lent at 7 PM St Mary and St Bernadette parishes will both pray the Way of the Cross, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. You could join in! And bring your kids!

LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE

During Lent, Catholics in the United States

- **abstain from meat** on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. Catholics 14 and older are bound by the law of abstinence;
- **fast** on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday — which means eating only one full meal on those days, but may not total one full meal. And no eating between meals. All adults are bound by the law of fast until they are 59.

Pastors and parents are to see to it that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated in an authentic sense of penance.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

From Feb 10 to Mar 20, communities across the country will participate in the 40 Days for Life campaign. Faithful believers are **praying that this effort will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in America**. This **peaceful prayer vigil** will take place at an abortion facility. Participants are asked to sign a statement of peace. For details about 40 Days for Life in the our area, contact Greater Columbus Right to Life at (614) 445-8508 or visit www.40daysforlife.com/columbus.

RICE BOWL

This year's theme for Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl

is **“For Lent, For Life.”** This Lent, we answer the call to serve the “least of our brothers and sisters” through Rice Bowl. It offers Catholics in the US a way to connect with our brothers and sisters around the world. This Lent, CRS invites us to **pray** with our families; **fast** in solidarity with those who hunger; learn about the challenges of poverty overseas; and **give sacrificial contributions** for those in need. Visit the Rice Bowl website at <http://orb.crs.org>.

GETTING TO KNOW JESUS BETTER
by learning what the Gospel of Luke has to teach us

Father Kessler will teach a Lenten series on the Gospel of Saint Luke on the Fridays of Lent (not including Good Friday which is not exactly part of Lent). Sessions will be held in the Mary Good Center on Feb 12, 19, and 26, and March 4, 11, and 18. They will begin at 9:15 AM (just after Mass) and will last until 10:45. There will be a few copies available of a(n optional) commentary by Scott Hahn that is both scholarly and attentive to our devotional needs. More can be ordered if needed. Why St Luke? Because this is the year for reading his Gospel at Sunday Mass. And because it is a surprisingly beautiful way to get to know the Lord Jesus better.

K OF C FISH FRY

Lancaster **Knights of Columbus** will fry fish on Ash Wednesday (Feb 10) and on the Fridays of Lent (Feb 12, 19, and 26, and Mar 4, 11, and 18). After the fish, come to St Bernadette or Bremen St Mary for the Stations of the Cross. Cost (for the fish, not the Stations) for adults is \$8 and for children is \$6. The K of C hall is at 343 East Walnut Street.

PRAYER IN THE MORNING

All through the year we gather for prayer on the weekday mornings at 8 AM in whichever parish is having 8:20 Mass. This is the Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of Hours to greet the new day. It is called Lauds because a major point of it is to sing the praises of God. Mass will follow a few minutes after Lauds. The heart of the prayer is the recitation of the selected psalms together. If you want to have Lenten renewal in your prayer life, please join us. It is the Church's ancient scriptural way of prayer. Give it a try.

Ash Wednesday Masses			The Fairfield / Hocking / Pickaway Deanery		Lenten Penance Services			Stations of the Cross
8 AM		7 PM	Lancaster	St Mark	Tuesday,	Mar 1,	7 PM	Friday at 6
10 AM		7 PM	Logan	St John	Monday,	Feb 22,	7 PM	Friday at 2:30 & 7
8:20 AM	noon		Lancaster	St Bernadette	Sunday,	Mar 13,	3 PM	Friday at 7
	noon	7 PM	Sugar Grove	St Joseph	Tuesday,	Mar 15,	7 PM	Friday at 7
7 AM, 9 AM		7 PM	Lancaster	St Mary	Thursday,	Mar 10,	7 PM	Friday at 7
		6 PM	Bremen	St Mary	Sunday,	Mar 20,	3 PM	Friday at 7
	1:35 PM		Fisher Catholic High School		Wednesday,	Mar 16,	1:30 PM	
9AM		7 PM	Circleville	St Joseph	Sunday,	Mar 6,	4 PM	Friday at 7

both our parishes

PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of **Charles “Dave” Schorr** and **Daniel Hoover**. May they rest in peace.

THE CATHOLIC TIMES

For a Catholic perspective, the *Catholic Times* weekly newspaper features insightful and in-formative news from around our diocese, our country, and the world. Sign up today (or some-time in February) for, or continue receiving the *Catholic Times* for another year, by placing **your Catholic Times envelope with a minimum donation of only \$17 (parish rate) into the regular Mass collection**. This donation

helps the parish to provide the *Catholic Times* to you and many of our parishioners. Checks should be made payable to St Bernadette or St Mary. If you are on "electronic" donation, you can still receive the *Catholic Times* – simply place your donation in an envelope marked "Catholic Times" and your name and drop it into the Sunday collection basket during February. As an evangelization tool, Bishop Campbell encourages every Catholic household to receive the Catholic Times. Come enjoy "A journal of Catholic life in Ohio." Sign up today.

BECOMING CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS

The Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) this year includes a prospective new member from each of our two parishes. While the beginning of a new school year is the ideal time to begin the process (which ordinarily leads to an Easter reception of the sacraments and an Easter season of orientation to the new reality), there is never a time that is not a good time for beginning the process. **Pray for them.** Intently.

YDISCIPLE: OUR YOUTH MINISTRY !

YDisciple, the youth program *for all our high school students at our two parishes*, directed by Chase and Julie Stalford, will soon meet again. If you are not sure where, contact Julie or Chase Stalford at 808-7294. The program is exciting. The young people are excited. Pray for this new ministry.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

To donate *flowers to adorn the sanctuary for a Sunday* during 2016 (excluding the Sundays of Advent and Lent, when we intentionally leave the sanctuary unadorned), contact the parish office. Your donation of \$40 may be placed in the collection basket at Mass.

IF YOU HAVE A MISERABLE VOICE

Sing anyway! Just sing softly. You may not be a good candidate for the choir or to be a cantor. That doesn't mean that you don't **need to sing when you come to Mass.** God made your voice. He only made a few voices of opera star quality, but he likes to hear all of them at worship. You can still sing softly. But **move your lips to the words and, when you don't know the words, take up the card or the book.** We all need to be involved in the liturgy. That doesn't mean we all have to be moving around or in charge of something. It does mean we have to participate in the effort.

SACRISTAN / USHERS

These are the people who make things flow smoothly during our Sunday (including Saturday evening) Masses. They

- get things ready,
- make sure all the other ministers are ready,
- help late arrivals find a seat with a minimum of disruption,
- take up a collection.

We need more of them, to distribute the joy more evenly. Would you like to help? Contact the parish office.

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.

at St Bernadette

SUNDAY MORNING ROSARY

Come pray the rosary together on Sunday at 10:35 (shortly before the 11 AM Mass). Pray for the peace that comes to our society from the conversion of our hearts to the Lord. For questions or if you are interested in *the Women's Faith Sharing Group* sponsoring this, contact Kara . Tencza @ gmail . com.

OPEN HOUSE AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

You are invited to an Open House at St Bernadette School today, Feb 7, from noon until 2 PM. Tour the building, meet the staff, and learn about registration and financial assistance. St Bernadette School offers preschool through fifth grade, before and after school care, specialized instruction by highly qualified staff, and one on one attention, all in a loving, faith-based environment.

SANDWICH SATURDAY

Each month a different grade at St Bernadette School makes meat and cheese sandwiches for Foundation Dinners to distribute to their patrons. St Bernadette students are **learning that serving and helping others can happen at any age.** Donations of zipper sandwich bags, lunch meat, cheese and bread are always welcome. Last week the first graders assembled 176 sandwiches.

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

The St Bernadette offertory collection for Jan 31 came to \$6,091.

YOU COULD GIVE AT MASS EVERY WEEK (OR EVERY MONTH)

In St Bernadette Parish you could use Electronic Funds Transfer as **a way to stabilize the level of your financial support.** This helps the parish's cash flow by preventing unintended seasonal ebb and flow from your commitment to support the parish. Contact Nikki Schmeltzer in the parish office for details.

FRIENDS FOREVER

Friends Forever, a seasoned citizens group at St Bernadette, meets on Thursday, Feb 18, for a Lenten lunch. Call Ann Essman for details at 654-1893.

at St Mary in Bremen

HELPING OUR NEEDY NEIGHBORS

Thank you for your support of the St Vincent de Paul collection after Mass today. Your generosity is always appreciated.

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

The collection at Bremen St Mary for Jan 31 netted \$1,830

conferences, etc

RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

The diocesan Respect Life Conference is Saturday, March 5, at St Joseph Church in Plain City. The theme is *Being Pro-Life in the Year of Mercy*. Keynote speaker is Fr Kevin Lutz. Additional conference topics include: practical parish resources to promote the Church's teaching on respect for human life, an overview of pro-life elements in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si' (On Care for our Common Home)*, community outreach programs offering hope and healing, and updates on legislation and advocacy efforts. The conference lasts from 10 AM to 3 PM, with lunch included. To register, send a check for \$20 to the Office for Social Concerns, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, Ohio 43215. Call (614) 241-2540 or email at socmailbox@colodioc.org.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CONFERENCES

These are big events coming in February you won't want to miss. At each of these Saturday events Bishop Campbell will celebrate Mass and there will be opportunities for Penance, as well as some entertainment and lots of fellowship with a thousand or two of the most interesting people in central Ohio.

- Women of our diocese will gather on Feb 20 for the 9th annual Conference with the theme of "*Mercy Changes Everything*"; they will listen to talks by Jennifer Fulwiler, Fr Nathan Cromly, Sonja Corbitt, and Sarah Kroger.
- Men will meet on Feb 27 for the 19th annual Conference with a theme of "*Call to Discipleship*." They will hear Fr Larry Richards, Hector Molina, David Karam, and Doug Lessells.

Both events will be at the Voinovich Center at the Ohio fairgrounds in Columbus. Call Pat Gins at (740) 536-7402 for information.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY CELEBRATION:

All married couples are invited to the diocesan celebration of World Marriage Day, Sunday, Feb 14, from 1:30-4 PM at Immaculate Conception Church in Columbus. Dr Andrew Sodergren, a Catholic psychologist with Ruah Woods in Cincinnati, will discuss *Love, Marriage, and the Meaning of Life*: ways to strengthen your marriage relationship, blending Catholic theology and insights from psychology. This will be followed by *a Holy Hour for Marriage*. There is no charge but space is limited. RSVP by Feb 10 at <http://familylife.colodioc.org> or (614) 241-2560.

SPIRIT OF HOPE GALA

Catholic Social Services of the Columbus Diocese will have a gala event on Saturday, March 5, at 6:30 PM at the Columbus Museum of Art. This annual event benefits Catholic Social Services' 14 programs designed *to strengthen individuals and families, provide crisis relief, and help seniors age with grace and independence* in the 23 counties of Central and Southern Ohio. To purchase tickets, contact Mackenzie Burton at (614) 221-5891 or mburton@colsscs.org, no later than Feb 20.

Feb 14	World Marriage Day	Immaculate Conception, Columbus
Feb 19-21	Marriage Encounter Weekend	
Feb 20	Women's Conference	Voinovich Center, Columbus
Feb 27	Men's Conference	Voinovich Center, Columbus
Mar 5	Catholic Social Service Gala	Columbus Museum of Art
Mar 5	Respect Life Conference	St Joseph, Plain City

CHRIST PRESENT IN YOUR MARRIAGE

A *Marriage Encounter weekend* will help you to let your marriage be

renewed as a sacrament, a sign of the Lord's presence in the world. The next two weekends in central Ohio are Feb 19-21 and Apr 22-24. For information or to register, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit www.wmccolumbus.org.

in the deanery

LENTEN HOLY HOURS AT LANCASTER ST MARY

St. Mary of the Assumption will have Sunday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the Sundays of Lent beginning at 4 PM. Vespers will be sung at 4:45 ending with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to join in.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

There will be a Protecting God's Children session at St John Church in Logan on Saturday, Feb 27, from 9 AM until noon. Deacon Don Robers will facilitate. Call the parish office for information.

and elsewhere

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Father Michael Dosch, OP, pastor of St Patrick in Columbus, invites you to join the 62nd US *National Rosary Pilgrimage to Lourdes*, June 23 to July 3, *accompanied by clergy and medical staff* to assist the needs of the pilgrims. Pilgrims will also visit *sites associated with the early Dominicans* in honor of the *Jubilee of the foundation of the Dominican Order in 1216*, celebrating 800 years of Our Lady's entrustment of the Rosary to St Dominic and his order. Contact Fr Michael at pastor@stpatrickcolumbus.com or the pilgrimage office at 1 (877) 276-7279 or lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net Read more at www.lourdes-pilgrimage.com; registration deadline is Mar 15.

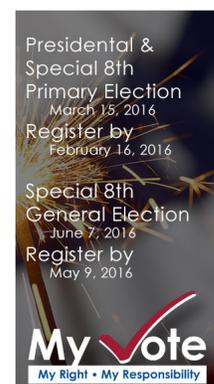
FATIMA AND LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Father Stash Dailey, pastor of Holy Family Church in Columbus, invites you to join the 62nd US National Rosary Pilgrimage to Lourdes, June 23 to July 4, accompanied by clergy and medical staff to assist the needs of the pilgrims. Pilgrims will also visit the great Marian shrine of Fatima, Lisbon, Santarem and Nazare. For details contact Liz Grinder at the pilgrimage office at 1 (877) 276-7279 or lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net Read more at www.lourdes-pilgrimage.com.

CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

Our bishops have something to say about our Faith and political responsibility for the 2016 election. *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* presents their teaching on the political responsibility of Catholics. They provide guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. Pastors, lay and religious faithful, and all people of good will are urged

- to let this teaching help form their consciences;
- to teach those entrusted to their care;
- to contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue; and
- to shape political choices in the coming election in light of Catholic teaching.



readings, feasts, and memorials for this week

Saturday, Feb 6		5th Sunday in the Year	Isaiah 6:1-8	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Psalm 138	Luke 5:1-11
Sunday, Feb 7						
Monday, Feb 8	St Jerome Emiliani, St Josephine Bakhita		1 Kings 8:1-13		Psalm 132	Mark 6:53-56
Tuesday, Feb 9	Weekday		1 Kings 8:22-30		Psalm 84	Mark 7:1-13
Wednesday, Feb 10	Ash Wednesday		Joel 2:12-18	2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2	Psalm 51	Matt 6:1-18
Thursday, Feb 11	Our Lady of Lourdes		Deuteronomy 30:15-20		Psalm 1	Luke 9:22-25
Friday, Feb 12	Friday after Ash Wednesday		Isaiah 58:1-9		Psalm 51	Matt 9:14-15
Saturday, Feb 13	Saturday after Ash Wednesday		Isaiah 58:9-14		Psalm 86	Luke 5:27-32
Sunday, Feb 14		1st Sunday of Lent	Deuteronomy 26:4-10	Romans 10:8-13	Psalm 91	Luke 4:1-13

Mass intentions and ministers this week at St Mary

	intention	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sunday, Feb 7 8:30 AM	<i>for the people</i>	Paul Kunkler	Caelie Bell Brooke Holt	Neil Boch, Irene Kunkler, Jim Schmelzer	Paul Kunkler family	Jim Schmelzer
Tuesday, Feb 9 8:20 AM	<i>David Stretton</i>	Jim Schmelzer				Jim Schmelzer
Ash Wednesday Feb 10 6 PM	<i>Helen Kunkler</i>	Linda Qualls	Sydnee Rogers Isaac Schmelzer	Tyna Schmelzer-Fox		
Sunday, Feb 14 8:30 AM	<i>for the people</i>	Jeanne Schmelzer	Caden Fyffe Cody Fyffe	Leo Kunkler Sr, Pam Redding, Tyna Schmelzer-Fox	Maurice Schmelzer family	Joe Young

Mass intentions and ministers this week at St Bernadette

	intention	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion
Saturday, Feb 6 4 PM	<i>Ray Wolshire</i>	Martha Rose	Samantha Kerns, Dominic Neighbor, Daniel Turner	Teresa Carpenter, Kathy Kehnast, James & Rebecca Kuhn, Sandy Landefeld, Denise McGuire
Sunday, Feb 7 11 AM	<i>for the people</i>	Scott Wood	Isabelle Gentile, Aaron & David Wood	Patricia Dreyer, Jim & Rita Merk, Larry Sanford, Valerie Shaw, David Shonk
Monday, Feb 8 8:20 AM	<i>Ann Muetzel</i>	Mary Jane Vajen	Ava Ewing, Emeline Neighbor	Patricia Dreyer, Denise McGuire
Ash Wednesday, Feb 10 8:20 AM	<i>William Kuth</i>	Bob Christy	Addy Myers, Avee Solt	Deacon Mark Scarpitti, Mary Guinan, Mary Jane Vajen
	<i>for the people</i>	Kathy Kehnast	Fifth Grade Servers	Kathy Kehnast, Paul Lonergan
Thursday, Feb 11 6 PM	<i>Charles Smith</i>	Kathy Kehnast	Kendall Cox, Cady Tipple	Kathy Kehnast, Paul Lonergan
Friday, Feb 12 8:20 AM	<i>Andrew Sammler</i>	Robin Sanders	Emma McCrady, Emeline Neighbor	Jim & Rita Merk
Saturday, Feb 13 4 PM	<i>Therese Sheridan</i>	Rebecca Kuhn	Clara & Susan Craaybeek, Eve Darfus	Tara Craaybeek, Rosalie DeFillippo, Marguerite Grimm, Brad Rider, Craig Shaw, Darlene Yarmesch
Sunday, Feb 14 11 AM	<i>David Merk</i>	Amy Woo	Ashlyn & Brennan Quaintance, Diana Woo	Lee Guinan, Benjamin Peters, Teresa Scarpitti, Mary Jane Vajen, Rebecca Wickham, Julia Whitehead

Confessions and weekday Masses each week in the deanery

confessions	the parish	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 AM Sunday	Bremen St Mary		8:20 AM				
5:30 Thursday & 3 Saturday 8:30 AM on 1 st Saturday	Lancaster St Bernadette	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	1 st Saturday 9 AM
4-5 Saturday	Lancaster St Mary	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		
5:30 Saturday	Lancaster St Mark	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM	
½ hour before each Mass	Sugar Grove St Joseph	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	
4-4:45 Saturday	Logan St John	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM

A Day of Prayer for the Sick and a way to pray for them that day

The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Bernadette at Lourdes in 1858.

In nineteenth century European culture (and in many cultures before and since) many people with health problems would resort to spas. But “spa” didn’t mean a place for people with time on their hands to pamper themselves and have their nails “done.” They were places with natural fountains of warm or even hot water with high levels of various healthy minerals. The sick would go, drink some of this mineral water, and bathe in the springs. Whether it was therapeutic I couldn’t say, but in various countries, city names like Bath, Bagnoregio, Baden-Baden, Warm Springs, Hot Springs, etc., attest to the popularity of such places. The rich and famous would go to “take the waters.”

The village of Lourdes was in a part of France where the spa culture just didn’t reach. But when Our Lady appeared to the young Lourdes girl, Bernadette Soubirous, and told her to scratch the ground near a grotto (a shallow cave) in her village, the girl did as instructed. Water came forth, at first a trickle of muddy water, with which she was to wash her face. The story and its spring attracted people. Maybe they would have a healing; maybe they too would see Mary. They washed in Lourdes water; they drank it. News of a few miraculous cures drew people from all over France, and eventually from the rest of Europe, even the far off Americas, and, later, from around the world. This unpromising and isolated village in a land otherwise known for great beauty and famous shrines and spas became a place of prayer, especially prayer for the sick. Miracles did happen, not for everyone who wanted one or felt the need for one. But hearts and minds were touched, which was often a far greater miracle than a physical healing.

The connection of healing and Our Lady of Lourdes has become so great that a few years back, Saint Pope John Paul II declared the anniversary of the first appearance of Our Lady to St Bernadette, Feb 11, to be a *World Day of Prayer for the Sick*.

Needless to say, the connection of this Day of Prayer resonates with people from parishes named for St Bernadette and St Mary. It also strikes a chord where so many people have a vocation in health care.

So on Thursday, the 11th, at the 6 PM Mass we will have a special intention in our prayer

- for the sick,
- for the health care professionals (physicians, nurses, pharmacists, various kinds of therapists and support staff) and
- for the families and loved ones of the sick.

There will be an opportunity for the celebration of the sacrament of the anointing of the sick for those who let Kathy Kehnast at the St Bernadette office know they need the sacrament. Remember that you are eligible for the sacrament if you are

- beginning to be dangerously ill,
- facing major surgery, or
- suffering from the ravages of old age.

It won’t be a grand liturgy or have a party; our prayer will be a muted Lenten sort of thing. But it will be heart-filled prayer for the sick and those who care for them, that they may have healing in mind and body. If those are concerns of yours, please join us in prayer.

—Father Kessler

Coming and Not Coming to Holy Communion

Here is a some of what the National Conference of Catholic Bishops provides for guidelines on the reception of Holy Communion. The bishops remind those who attend Catholic liturgies of the discipline of the Church with regard to the sharing of Eucharistic communion.

FOR CATHOLICS

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

...

FOR THOSE NOT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

Jesus is blunt about our preparedness for Communion.

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord.
1 Corinthians 11:27

This is a painful and uncomfortable issue. The benefit of the pain is that it reminds us of the awesome treasure we have and incites us to work to be ready for Holy Communion. In this Year of Mercy, come to the Sacrament of Penance and come back to the unity of the Church.

— Father Kessler

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