

## Saint Bernadette Parish

1343 Wheeling Road NE (740) 654 • 1893

LANCASTER, OH 43130-8701

## Saint Mary Parish

602 Marietta Street (740) 569 • 7929

BREMEN, OH 43107

*stbernadetteparish.net*



### THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON

by James Tissot (1836-1902)

Painted in oil on canvas in 1862  
now in a private collection

The story of the prodigal son, which is told in today's gospel reading, is relocated to 19<sup>th</sup> century Paris. The artist usually did the research to paint Biblical scenes as they would likely have appeared. But this time he wants to show a forgiveness that transcends time and place. The city still looks medieval, so it must have been in a neighborhood not yet touched by the radical urban renovation plans.

The son, dressed in rags, has spent all his money and now returns to his father. There is a hubbub among the neighbors. Even the cat and dog seem hostile to the boy! He must have smelt like the swine—so repugnant to the Jews—he had recently been tending. The father welcomes him lovingly, without a word of rebuke. Today's gospel tells us of the welcome of his merciful father and his resentful brother.

## THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN THE YEAR

SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

## Our Parishes

### AT BOTH PARISHES

<b>Fr Thomas Kessler</b>	Pastor	(614) 634-0499	<i>wmthomaskessler@icloud.com</i>
<b>Kathy Kehnast</b>	pastoral coordinator	(740) 654-1893	<i>stbernp Parish@yahoo.com</i>
<b>Angie &amp; Kent Kerns</b>	religious education	(740) 654-2588	<i>kwkerns@gmail.com</i>
<b>Julie &amp; Chase Stalford</b>	youth ministry	(740) 808-7294	<i>maristellaspirt@gmail.com</i>
<b>Nikki Schmelzer</b>	bookkeeper	(740) 654-1893	<i>businessstbparish@yahoo.com</i>

### AT BREMEN ST MARY PARISH

<b>Ben Factor</b>	Liturgical music		<i>b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us</i>
<b>Jim Schmelzer</b>	maintenance chair	(740) 215-3894	
<b>Tyna Fox-Schmelzer</b>	Religious education	(614) 371-7702	<i>schmelifox@earthlink.net</i>
<b>Bremen St Vincent de Paul</b>		(740) 569-3710	
<b>The St Mary Parish office</b> is at the church vestibule. Hours are 9-11 AM, Tu. 602 Marietta St, Bremen, OH 43107			

### AT ST BERNADETTE PARISH

<b>Deacon Mark Scarpitti</b>		(740) 438-3970	<i>dcn.mark@frontier.com</i>
<b>Deacon Jeff Carpenter</b>		(740) 681-9918	<i>carpenter.277@osu.edu</i>
<b>Ann Essman</b>	pastoral minister	(740) 653-9347	<i>aessman001@att.net</i>
<b>Steve Huber</b>	facilities coordinator	(740) 654-3137	<i>shuber57@yahoo.com</i>
<b>Liz Latorre</b>	liturgical music	(740) 243-1872	<i>lizlatorre@gmail.com</i>

**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 RdNE, Lancaster, OH 43130

### AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

<b>Pam Eltringham</b>	Principal	(740) 654-3137	<i>peltring@cdeducation.org</i>
<b>Barb Huber</b>	Secretary	(740) 654-3137	<i>bhuber@cdeducation.org</i>

**Saint Bernadette School** is at 1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701  
*stbernlanc@cdeducation.org*  
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. The next session will be Wednesday, **Oct 19. 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. If you can't come (health, severe weather, employment requirements, etc.), speak to your confessor. He will help you.

### PENANCE

The priest is available for Penance

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

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

### ANOIDING 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 sacramentally 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. She tries to support couples through the years of their married life. For this reason our diocese offers programs to enhance married life. To learn how, watch the weekly bulletin.

## let us pray together

### FOR THE 24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart.

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.

### AND WITH POPE FRANCIS IN SEPTEMBER

His universal intention is about the centrality of the human person:

That each may contribute to the common good and to the building of a society that places the human person at the center.

His evangelization intention is about the mission to evangelize:

That by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelize.

## in both our parishes

### emergency flood collection

The recent flooding in the Mississippi Delta is the worst domestic disaster since Hurricane Sandy. It seems that 60,000 homes have been damaged, with nearly 20,000 people having been rescued from the flood waters. Bishop Campbell asks that all our parishes in the Diocese of Columbus participate in the US bishops' national emergency collection to assist the victims of the 2016 Louisiana Floods. Our prayer and material support is urgently needed to help rebuild lives. The collection will be taken next Sunday, Sept 17 and 18, and will be used to support the humanitarian efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to affected local churches.

### get ready for Mass

If it is something special, we get ready for it. That goes for Sunday Mass. The most important way to get ready is to be in—or get into—the **state of grace** so that we can receive Holy Communion worthily. Then we need to **fast** (a tough word for a very easy task) for at least an hour before we receive Communion. And we could try to prime the pump, as it were, for hearing the Word of God as it will be read that day by **reading and pondering that little portion of the Word** of God.

Those are matters of spiritual readiness. But to go to Mass is to approach the great sacramental mysteries, **approaching physically as well as spiritually**. Old-fashioned rural Protestants were on to something when they spoke of wearing their “**Sunday-go-to-meetin’ clothes**.” We could all **dress up** a little bit, not to show off our fancy wardrobe but to “do something beautiful for God.”

And think of what we say to our kids before a trip or before a film or a concert or a ride on the ferris wheel: We tell them to **go to the bathroom ahead of time**. Emergencies can happen to just about everybody. And each of us, young or old, has the health she / he has been blessed with. But with a little extra precaution we could be (and help others to be) even more single-minded about worship and to avoid the procession to and from the side door. Thanks for thinking about all these things.

Mass times and intentions			
at St Bernadette		at St Mary	
4 PM	for the people	Saturday, Sept 10	
		Sunday, Sept 11	8:30 AM for the people
11 AM	for the people	Sunday, Sept 11	
8:20 AM	Margaret Kessler	Monday, Sept 12	
		Tuesday, Sept 13	8:20 AM Frances Labrasca
8:20 AM	deceased of Sevigny family	Wednesday, Sept 14	
6 PM	Anna Alonso	Thursday, Sept 15	
8:20 AM	Helen Henry	Friday, Sept 16	
4 PM	for the people	Saturday, Sept 17	
		Sunday, Sept 18	8:30 AM for the people
11 AM	for the people	Sunday, Sept 18	

### pray in church

Our church is always a place of prayer. Even when Mass is over and we are exiting. Keep it a place of silence. Visit aloud after you have gotten outside. That way, you will be respecting the awesome and continuing presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, reserved in the tabernacle. And you will be respecting the people who are trying to

make a prayer of thanksgiving. It matters. If that respect disappears, Catholic Faith will be lost.

You can come to church to adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament **any day, during daylight hours** at either St Bernadette or Bremen St Mary. The front doors of both churches are unlocked during the day. People praying in church are welcome to **turn a light on** when needed. They are urged to **turn off lights** when they aren't necessary.

### to shelter the homeless

An older Catholic woman is looking for a room or a small place to live. If you are aware of a place for rent, call the office for details.

## st bernadette

### jillian's dinner

On Saturday, Oct 22, St Bernadette Parish will host the 16<sup>th</sup> annual **Jillian's Dinner**. This dinner raises money to assist a family from our area who has suffered catastrophic illness, the loss of a loved one, or some such major adversity. To recommend someone who might benefit from Jillian's Dinner, contact Kathy Wagner at (740) 687-0504. Nominations will be considered by a lay committee and are kept confidential. A raffle is held during the dinner to generate more funds to help the family. If you have items to donate, you may bring them to the St Bernadette parish office by Oct 10.

### welcome to st bernadette catholic school

**Our goal at St. Bernadette School** is to nurture and encourage, in each child, academic, spiritual, emotional, and physical development; to guide them in their choices and appreciation of the cultural arts. Our students are active participants in their education.

*from the school website*

### psr classes at st bernadette

St Bernadette PSR begins today, Sunday, Sept 11, at 9:45 AM. Parents are invited to this first session for a meeting while their children attend class. Last minute registration can still take place at this meeting. Just a reminder: Catholic parents have a solemn moral duty to see that their children are properly and completely instructed in the Catholic Faith. And they have a duty to see that their children attend every week (barring health or weather deterrents). And children will find getting to know Jesus and his Church to be an irreplaceable and joy filled part of their upbringing.

### a new hymnal !

**St Michael Hymnal**, fourth edition, has arrived at St Bernadette. It will be making its debut in just a few weeks.

It is an attractive hardback book, bound in blue like the hymnal it will replace at the beginning of October. Its content will be a little different from what we have been used to. There are a number of Latin and Spanish entries, most of which we won't be using any time soon. (You don't plan to use all the words in your dictionary, but you do want it to have a lot of words, even some which you won't be using any time soon!). This hymnal makes a special effort to use the original versions of its traditional hymns, without resorting to bowdlerizing (editing out the things that an editor might not approve of, like the male pronoun for God the Father) or creating new verses or lines that express a late twentieth century perspective that was not found in the original. It is a handsome volume and we will need to take good care of it.

The cost of this new resource has been borne by generous parishioners who wish to remain anonymous. So you can't say

“thank you” personally, but you can indeed pray for them and their intentions.

**caring for church linens**

It’s a small service with big dividends. If you could help wash and iron the altar linens for St Bernadette once a month, call the church office to volunteer. It is not an overwhelming chore.

**news from the lazarus committee**

The Lazarus Committee thanks all the ladies who have prepared and delivered food for our funeral luncheons over the years. But men who can cook or bake are invited to participate. More people than you realize appreciate this help and generosity.

Think how many of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy are included in this service.

the **spiritual works of mercy,**

- counsel the doubtful
- admonish sinners
- forgive offences
- instruct the ignorant
- comfort the afflicted
- bear patiently those who do us ill
- pray for the living and the dead,

and the **corporal works of mercy,**

- feed the hungry
- clothe the naked
- heal the sick
- give drink to the thirsty
- welcome the stranger
- visit the imprisoned
- bury the dead.

Someone suggested that six of them are acted on! Can you name them? If you have not been a part of this ministry and would like to have your name added to the calling list, call the office at (740) 654-1893 for details. Thank you.

ministers at Mass at st bernadette					
	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion		
Saturday, Sept 10 4 PM	Teresa Carpenter	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Susan Garrett Brad Rider Jim & Becky Kuhn	Denise McGuire Craig Shaw	
Sunday, Sept 11 11 AM	Amy Woo	Dominic & Emeline Neighbor, Diana Woo	David Shonk Larry Sanford Jim & Rita Merk	Becky Wickham Tara Craaybeek	
Monday, Sept 12 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Mitchell Ortiz, Lexi Utz	Pat Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast	
Wednesday Sept 14 8:20 AM	Robin Sanders	Jack Gentile, Brianna Hilyard	Mary Guinan	Mary Jane Vajen	
Thursday, Sept 15 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Becca Fuller, Carley Matson	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan	
Friday, Sept 16 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Joey Mannella, Sarah Woo	Jim & Rita Merk		
Saturday, Sept 17 4 PM	Patrick Gins	Mason, McKenzie & Mallory Ortiz	Terry Carpenter Rose DeFillippo Marguerite Grimm	Kathy Kehnast Shelia Taylor Kathy Wagner	
Sunday, Sept 18 11 AM	Dennis Forquer	Collin & Emma McCrady, Caroline Messerly	Pat Dreyer Nany Griffith Ben Peters	Jean Robertson Teresa Scarpitti Mary Jane Vajen	

**parish contributions**

The **St Bernadette offertory collection** for Sept 4 came to \$10,795.

**bremen st mary**

**men’s night out**

All men of the parish are invited to come—and bring a friend—to a **Men’s Night Out**, with a dinner and a brief inspirational presentation by Randy Tipple, at St Mary Church on Wednesday, Sept 14, at 6:30 PM. For information call (740) 215-3894.

**cleanup at schmelzer’s grove**

There will be a work day—well, the earlier part of a day—at Schmelzer’s Grove on Saturday, Sept 17, to clear brush and clean up the property. Come at 9 AM and bring a friend. Many hands make the work lighter and more enjoyable and enable the folks to accomplish that much more.

**saint mary home coming ox roast**

The parishioners of St Mary in Bremen welcome all members, past, present, and future, as well as members of other parishes and congregations who like to be with us for worship occasionally, to our **Homecoming Ox Roast**. Please join us Sunday, Sept 25, at Schmelzer’s Grove for a day of good food and great family fun, starting at 1 PM with our annual Ox Roast followed by an afternoon filled with music, dancing, hay and pony rides, games and much more. Admission cost? Bring a delicious dessert or a nice smile.

**parish contributions**

The **St Mary offertory collection** for Sept 4 came to \$5,963. The St Vincent de Paul Society came up with \$984 from their monthly collection at the door of church.

**st vincent de paul**

The St Vincent de Paul Society thanks you for your generosity last week. The next meeting will be on the third Tuesday of this month, Sept 20, at 7 PM. New members are always welcome. If you have question, call Angi Skinner at (740) 438-0027.

**news about the parish school of religion**

We are excited for the coming PSR year with Sarah Borah as a new voice. Our first session is next Sunday, Sept 18. Registration forms are in the vestibules. Parents are invited to the first session for a meeting.

We are happy to announce **this year’s teachers:**

- Pre-school, K & 1<sup>st</sup> Angi Skinner
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Wyatt Borah
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade Shawna Kunkler & Cody Schmelzer
- 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade Jerry & Tyna Schmelzer

ministers at mass at bremen st mary					
	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sunday, Sept 11 8:30 AM	Joe Young	Caden Fyffe Cody Fyffe	Neil Boch, Joe & Cathy Young	Joe Young family	Joe Young
Sunday, Sept 18 8:30 AM	Susan Foltz	Spencer Conrad Jillian Wilkinson	Susan Foltz, Leo Kunkler Sr, Jim Schmelzer	John Schoenlaub family	Jim Schmelzer

**in the diocese of columbus**

**breakfast with the bishop**

Catholic Social Services hosts **Breakfast with the Bishop** on Tuesday, Oct 4, at 7:30 AM at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel. Speaker is Robert Lupton, author of *Toxic Charity*. To register call (614) 221-5891 or visit www.colsscs.org

**the beauty of the feminine**

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual **Beauty of the Feminine Catholic Women's Conference** will happen on Saturday, Oct 8, from 8 AM to 3 PM at St Thomas Aquinas Parish in Zanesville. It is a day of fellowship, prayer and faith formation. This year's theme is "**Witness to Mercy.**" To register call St Thomas at (740) 453-3309 or email [thebeautyofthefeminine@gmail.com](mailto:thebeautyofthefeminine@gmail.com). If you register by Sept 30, your \$20 include breakfast and lunch. Registration on the day of the event is \$25. Contact Susan with questions or visit [www.thebeautyofthefeminine.weebly.com](http://www.thebeautyofthefeminine.weebly.com) and Facebook @ TheBeautyOfTheFeminine for information.

### Sacred Heart congress

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Sacred Heart Congress will be Saturday, Oct 15, at St Matthew Church in Columbus from 7 AM to 1 PM. It features Timothy O'Donnell, president of Christendom College; Fr Stash Dailey, spiritual director of Sacred Heart Columbus and administrator of Holy Family Parish; and Fr Ted Sill, pastor of St Matthew Parish. A free-will offering will be taken. For information and registration visit [www.sacredheartcolumbus.org](http://www.sacredheartcolumbus.org).

### protecting God's children

This workshop, required for all school volunteers, is offered at many locations throughout our Diocese. For a complete list, or to register for a class, visit [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

### retrouaille

**If your marriage is troubled** and stressed, unloving or uncaring; if you have grown cold and distant; if you are separated, or are thinking about it, don't give up. **Retrouaille** (a French word that means "rediscovery") is a **program to help heal and support** married couples experiencing difficulties, loneliness or pain. It is also for separated or divorced couples wanting to try again. For information call (614) 296-9704 or visit [www.retrouaille.org](http://www.retrouaille.org).

### young women's evening of reflection

Experience God's transformative love for women. On Saturday Sept 17, from 5-9 PM, all women ages 18-35 are invited to attend Mass followed by dinner, reflection, community, adoration, and reconciliation at the Church of the Resurrection in New Albany. There is no cost. To sign up, contact Krista Winbigler at [kristawinbigler@gmail.com](mailto:kristawinbigler@gmail.com) or (614) 315-4675.

### women's silent retreat

Women of the Columbus diocese, for just one week-end, will disconnect from election mania and the cyber world and connect with God. The will be coming to a silent retreat for women from Friday, Sept 30, to Sunday, Oct 2, at St Therese Retreat Center in Columbus. Sponsored by the Catholic Laywomen's Retreat League, this retreat begins Friday evening and ends Sunday at noon. Fr Vincent Petersen, a Franciscan from Our Lady of Consolation Shrine in Carey, Ohio, will be the retreat master. His theme is "**Love and Praise: Reflections on the Writings of Pope Francis.**" The fee is \$125 for six meals and a private room. For information, send e-mail to [retreatleague@gmail.com](mailto:retreatleague@gmail.com) or call Sharon Gehrllich, CLRL Secretary, at (614) 882-1946. Deadline is Sept 15. Space is limited and fills quickly. Please respond soon. God is calling you.

### help needed

The Sisters of Children of Mary just excavated 4 acres of land and they need help **clearing trees and building permanent pastures** for their cows at their convent in **Newark**. Any day is fine. Call (740) 323-1977. Find information at [www.childrenofmary.net](http://www.childrenofmary.net).

### happily ever after ... despite the rough spots

Join us for 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 weekends in central Ohio are Nov 11-13 and Feb 17-19. For information or to register, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www.wmcecolumbus.org](http://www.wmcecolumbus.org).

### bishop campbell audio files

You can now find talks from Bishop Campbell through the St Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820 audio archive online at [www.StGabrielRadio.com](http://www.StGabrielRadio.com). You might think of it as his "best of" material. The Bishop's audio archives are a tool you could use in trying to get yourself better informed about our holy Faith. The archives are free to use, available 24/7, and searchable by topic and date.

## in the deanery

### year of mercy parish mission

St Joseph Church in Circleville hosts a Year of Mercy Parish Mission from Sunday, Sept 18, through Tuesday, Sept 20, with a presentation at 7 PM each evening. It features Fr Thomas Blau, OP, parochial vicar at St Patrick Church in Columbus. On Monday and Tuesday, his talk is preceded by confessions from 6 -6:50 PM. On Tuesday, his talk is followed by Mass and a reception in the parish hall. Child care is provided.

### fisher catholic high school: advisory board

The pastor must appoint **two new members to the FCHS advisory board to advise the administration of the school**. A person does not need to be a Fisher parent or alum. The main requirement is that an adult parishioner be a practicing Catholic member of St Bernadette Parish who is concerned about how Fisher can continue in support of the high school's purpose: to help parents educate their young to be faithful Catholic Christians, good citizens, and good husbands or wives, good fathers or mothers. The term of service is two years. Interested applicants should contact Fr Kessler.

## being a catholic citizen

### register so that you can vote

We need to vote. Just skipping it isn't being a faithful citizen. Excuses you will hear might include:

- "I don't like either candidate in a particular contest."
  - Vote for the candidate who seems to you to be the most respectful (or least disrespectful!) of the human right to life and religious freedom. And don't forget the other contests on the ballot, the "down-ticket" candidates for congress, senate, local elections?
  - Do your homework!
- "I know how it is going to turn out from hearing the polls."
  - Polling questions muddy the waters. But don't skip the polling booth. Polls predict, they don't determine. Your candidate may lose. May not. Don't abdicate your vote.
- "The process is corrupt."
  - But your vote will still be counted. The way to insure that corruption increases, maybe even destroy a republic, is to wash your hands of it and complain—without voting.
- "The big shots make the decisions for us."

Don't vote and they will have an easier time of it.

- "I forgot to register."

You think that is an excuses?

### registration information

There is a process for voting absentee for people who are shut in (or are likely to be shut in or travelling on election day). So you can vote without ever leaving your home. It has become possible to vote at the Board of Elections prior to election day. Early voting is better than not voting. But it has the disadvantage of not taking into account all that happens right up to election day. There is a lot to be said for the civic experience of coming to the neighborhood polling place in a school or a firehouse or a museum. Wearing one of the little "I voted today!" stickers may be the secular counterpart of wearing ashes on Ash Wednesday.; it shows you have been involved even though it may not have been a festal event.

In any case, register. Then vote. Registration must be done by Oct 11. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov 8. You can do either in person at the Fairfield County Board of Elections, 951 Liberty Drive in Lancaster (off West Fair Ave) or at <http://www.fairfieldelections.com> or [www.myohiovote.com](http://www.myohiovote.com).

## on the web

### the word on fire

Remember **Catholicism**? That was the TV series written and hosted on PBS and EWTN TV a few years back by **Father Robert Barron** a very smart and very engaging priest from Chicago. Recordings were presented and discussed in lots of parishes, including St Bernadette. If you liked **Catholicism**, you will probably like now-Bishop Barron's (auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles for about a year now) **Sunday homily podcast**. It is a really good weekly source of reflection on the Scripture readings of the week. It takes fifteen minutes each week, and is easily listened to during one trip between Bremen and Lancaster. Podcasts are great that way. By following Bp Barron you can do something about the quality of the sermons you hear on Sunday. (When polled some Catholics complain about that. Imagine!) You won't be able to say that you aren't being nourished by the Word of God. The bishop's production organization is called **Word on**

**Fire**. That says it pretty well. Subscribe. You will be grateful for this recommendation.

### EWTN has its own app

It is called, not surprisingly, **EWTN**.

### saint bernadette parish has a website !

The address is [stbernadetteparish.net](http://stbernadetteparish.net). And it hosts the **bulletin and information about St Mary Bremen as well as St Bernadette**. Maybe we should have called it by both parish names. But that would have made it more difficult to google. The important thing is that it has information and bulletins, etc, for parishioners of both parishes. And for people who want to keep in touch with our parishes.

### and so does the vatican

You probably already knew about it, but it can be a problem to google, because some fakes put up anti-Catholic websites with Vatican in their name. **Home for the real thing is Vatican.va**. One very helpful place to turn to find out what the Church really teaches is **the Catechism (book length) page** at [http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_INDEX.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM)

### confessions & weekday Mass nearby

These times sometimes change, though, so call ahead

parish	confessions	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Bremen St Mary	8 am Sunday		8:20 AM				
Lancaster St Bernadette	5:30 Thursday 3 PM Saturday; 8:30 AM on 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat 9 AM
Lancaster St Mary	4 PM Saturday	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		
Lancaster St Mark	5:30 PM Saturday	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM	
Sugar Grove St Joseph	½ hour before Mass	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	
Circleville St Joseph	4 PM Saturday	9 AM	7 PM	9 AM		9 AM	10 AM
Logan St John	4 PM Saturday	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM

## the Church's plan for reading God's word this week

Sat	Sept 10	24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Exodus	32:7-14	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Psalms	51	Luke	15:1-32
Sun	Sept 11								
Mon	Sept 12	Most Holy Name of Mary	1 Corinthians	11:17-33		Psalms	40	Luke	7:1-10
Tues	Sept 13	St John Chrysostom	1 Corinthians	12:12-31		Psalms	100	Luke	7:11-17
Weds	Sept 14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Numbers	21:4-9	Philippians 2:6-11	Psalms	78	John	3:13-17
Thurs	Sept 15	Our Lady of Sorrows	1 Corinthians	15:1-11		Psalms	118	John	19:25-27
Fri	Sept 16	Sts Cornelius & Cyprian	1 Corinthians	15:12-20		Psalms	17	Luke	8:1-3
Sat	Sept 17	St Robert Bellarmine	1 Corinthians	15:35-49		Psalms	56	Luke	8:4-15
Sun	Sept 18	25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Amos	8:4-7	1 Timothy 2:1-8	Psalms	113	Luke	16:1-13

# The Sacred Name and our Sunday Mass

Maybe you saw the note in the papers a few years ago, at least in the Catholic papers. It said that the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments had written to the bishops of the world that we should no longer use the Holy Name YHWH in our worship, whether in our hymns or in our liturgical readings. I suppose this correction could be made without most of us ever noticing. But I bring it to your attention because it offers some important things to think about.

I can imagine two objections to making such a change: one is that this is the way we have always done things in our liturgy and the other, that the Vatican ought to have more important things to be concerned with. I think these represent the way we think about things in the Church. And that both of them are wrong.

## The Way We've Always Done Things

This is *not* the way we have always done things. I was most of the way through high school before hearing that the Name of God is YHWH. But that is the Hebrew word that God revealed to Moses at the burning bush in the desert at the very beginning of his ministry. God answered the question of Moses about who was sending him by saying "**I am who am**" (Exodus 3:14, where this statement of God is written "YHWH"). That was a deep and puzzling answer. But **the identity of God is never definable** or completely knowable to us. In the Exodus story, God gives us a marvelous glimpse, but only a glimpse.

The Hebrews had a lively sense of the awesomeness of God. Unlike the other ancient peoples, they could not make an image of God, they could not even pronounce his Holy Name. Because God said not to. He stressed the permanent ban of this by a commandment not to take the name of the Lord in vain. He meant it. Awe was for the Hebrews—and is for us—a real necessity in our awareness of God.

Compounding the strangeness of this word for the awe-some reality of God's Holy Name, there is also the strange way the Hebrew language works. Among its difficulties for us modern westerners, the Hebrew language doesn't write down any vowel to indicate how the word is to be pronounced; instead it puts in little vowel marks above or below the word, something like this:

יְהוָה or this: יְהוֹוֶה

to indicate how the word is pronounced. But it didn't write them in for this holy word which people weren't supposed to pronounce. When an observant Jew came across the holy word he would just substitute the substantial but less dramatic word "**Lord**."

When Christian writers and translators saw this problem, they did the best they could. The 16<sup>th</sup> century Protestant translators of the King James Bible made an educated guess that the word should be pronounced "**Jehovah**." They were wrong, but it was an honest mistake. Starting with Catholic translations of the Bible in the 1960s a more accurate transcription came along: "Yahweh." And that tidbit of knowledge crept into new popular Catholic hymns. What didn't come along with it was the humble awe-filled refusal to take the Name of the Lord in vain. The Vatican, at Pope Benedict's directive, was recalling us to the sense of the sacredness of the Name that is not to be pronounced. As is so often the case, "the way we have always done it" is only the way we have done it for the past few years.

## Nothing Better To Do

The other objection we might be inclined to make to this binding directive from the Holy See is to ask: Have they nothing better to concern themselves with? But there is an important reason that Church authorities must have keen oversight of the particulars of our worship. It is expressed by the old Latin maxim: *lex orandi lex credendi*, which translates (roughly) as "**the way we pray shapes and expresses the way we believe**." And Catholics believe that **the way we believe matters**. So what we sing matters.

The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council (and all the Popes since) insisted that the fundamental music of our liturgy continues to be Gregorian Chant. To master the whole Chant repertoire, a person would need to know Latin thoroughly and a congregation would need to practice extensively. But any congregation can sing some of the fundamental parts (the Kyrie, the Gloria, the Credo, the Sanctus, the *Angus Dei*). They do it all over the world. Is the Latin too foreign to our daily experience? Well, words like the English "holy" are not any easier to get a handle on than the Latin "Sanctus." With repetition we can all learn them.

A few years ago I was delighted to hear one class of our school children—and the children were proud to sing—the *Ave Maria* (the Hail Mary) in a very ancient Gregorian Chant form. And these were kindergartners, singing *a capella*, and still learning plenty of other stuff like reading and writing and a joy in the knowledge of the world around them.

The reason to learn to sing some of the chants is simple: **We are praying with the whole Church all over the world and all through the ages each time we worship**. This is how Catholics pray / have been praying for centuries, for most of the time since the death and resurrection of Jesus.

## What Hymns Are and What They Have To Do

The hymns of the Mass are something else. St Thomas Aquinas said that

A hymn is the praise of God with song

a song is the exultation of the mind dwelling on eternal things, bursting forth in the voice.

We usually sing a hymn at the Entrance, at the Offertory, at Communion, and at the Conclusion of the Mass. Hymns are not an official part of the liturgy like the Chants or the response Psalm. They are rhythmic songs that express the hymn writer's prayer. But they have to express the Faith of the Church, too, so they are modeled on the Psalms. The congregation sings them *together*, so they aren't usually just a personal reflection of an individual "wretch like me." They are sung *to God*, so they must not distract from the fundamental fact of a prayer, and the emphasis can't be on instructing us how to behave or on some political point. They are sung *in the Catholic Church's liturgy*, so the words must express the Faith as it is believed—and has always been believed—by our Catholic Church.

— Father Kessler

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