

Saint Bernadette Parish

1343 Wheeling Road NE (740) 654 • 1893

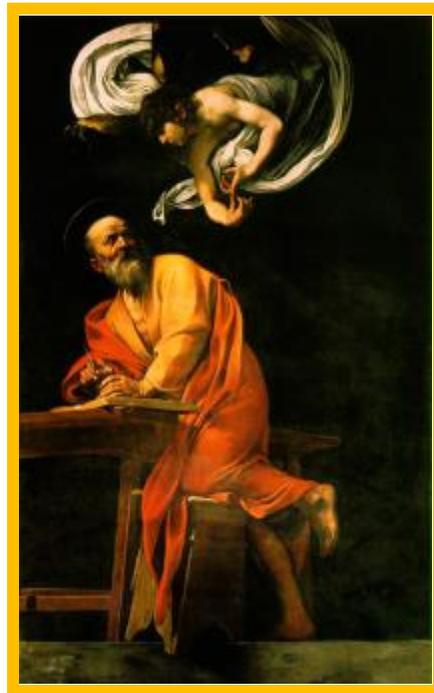
LANCASTER, OH 43130-8701

Saint Mary Parish

602 Marietta Street (740) 569 • 7929

BREMEN, OH 43107

stbernadetteparish.net



THE INSPIRATION OF SAINT MATTHEW

Painted (1602) by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (1571-1610)

one of three large paintings of St Matthew's life in the chapel of St Matthew, in the Church of San Luigi dei Francesi, Rome

This fanciful portrayal of the evangelist's writing his gospel stresses the divine inspiration of this portion of divine revelation. God chose Matthew with his background, information, culture, and personality to be the true human author of this holy book. Thus the gospel communicates reliably what the Lord wishes to reveal to us and is truly the word of God but also truly the word of this particular man.

St Matthew's feast day is this Wednesday, Sept 21. 2017 is the year we read the holy gospel according to St Matthew at Sunday Mass.

THE 25th SUNDAY IN THE YEAR

SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

AT BOTH PARISHES

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

AT BREMEN ST MARY PARISH

Ben Factor	liturgical music		<i>b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us</i>
Jim Schmelzer	maintenance chair	(740) 215-3894	
Tyna Fox-Schmelzer	religious education	(614) 371-7702	<i>schmelifox@earthlink.net</i>
Bremen St Vincent de Paul		(740) 569-3710	

The St Mary Parish office is at the church vestibule.
Hours are 9-11 AM, Tu.
602 Marietta St, Bremen, OH 43107

AT ST BERNADETTE PARISH

Deacon Mark Scarpitti		(740) 438-3970	<i>dcn.mark@frontier.com</i>
Deacon Jeff Carpenter		(740) 681-9918	<i>carpenter.277@osu.edu</i>
Ann Essman	pastoral minister	(740) 653-9347	<i>aessman001@att.net</i>
Steve Huber	facilities coordinator	(740) 654-3137	<i>shuber57@yahoo.com</i>
Liz Latorre	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 Rd NE, Lancaster, OH 43130

AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

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

Saint Bernadette School is at 1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701
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 Kehnst will be necessary). Sessions are held quarterly for both parishes. The next session will be **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.

ANOIDTING 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 24th SUNDAY

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life, 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.

both parishes

youth ministry

This is a message for all our high school youth and their families. Are you ready for faith and fellowship? Come join YDisciple at the Ice Cream Social kickoff on Sunday, Sept 25, from 6:30-8 PM. Learn about this year in youth ministry, play some field games and meet some friends, all while enjoying a sweet treat! Meet at the outdoor field at St Bernadette Parish.

But don't think of this as a St Bernadette event; it is for the youth of both our parishes. In fact, YDisciple and Fisher Catholic High School are the programming our parishes provide for all the youth of both the parishes. And we think they have something great to offer our kids. It's about getting to know Jesus and his Church.

For information contact Julie & Chase at (740) 808-7294 or Milea at (740) 689-3288.

in your charity

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Frank Newbert, brother-in-law of Fr. John Reade.

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 today, 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.

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.

Mass times and intentions

at St Bernadette		at St Mary	
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	
8:20 AM	James & William Mahon	Monday, Sept 19	
		Tuesday, Sept 20	8:20 AM Robert Ely
8:20 AM	Ben Thimmes	Wednesday, Sept 21	
6 PM	Wilford & Loretta Beiter	Thursday, Sept 22	
8:20 AM	intention of Jim & Rita Merk	Friday, Sept 23	
4 PM	for the people	Saturday, Sept 24	
		Sunday, Sept 25	8:30 AM for the people
11 AM	for the people	Sunday, Sept 25	

st bernadette

jillian's dinner

On Saturday, Oct 22, St Bernadette Parish will host the 16th 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 has begun but it is not too late to enroll students. 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.

sing a new song unto the Lord !

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. 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.

ministers at Mass at st bernadette				
	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
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 Nancy Griffith Ben Peters	Jean Robertson Teresa Scarpitti Mary Jane Vajen
Monday, Sept 19 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Joey Mannella Gunner Robertson	Pat Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, Sept 21 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Becca Fuller Carley Matson	Mary Guinan	Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, Sept 22 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Jack Gentile Brianna Hilyard	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan
Friday, Sept 23 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Lexi Utz Sarah Woo	Jim & Rita Merk	
Saturday, Sept 24 4 PM	Marguerite Grimm	Gus & Olivia Spiegel, Cady Tipple	Joyce Guenther Lee Guinan Sandy Landefeld	Denise McGuire Brad Rider Craig Shaw
Sunday, Sept 25 11 AM	John Hartig	Anna Hartig, Ashlyn & Brennan Quaintance	James Merk Rita Merk Anna Sevigny	David Shonk Becky Wickham Amy Woo

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.

parish contributions

The **St Bernadette offertory collection** for Sept 11 came to \$5,717.

bremen st mary

prayer request

Ann VanAtta is very ill and your prayers for her are appreciated. You could also send a card to:

Ann VanAtta c/o Lori Bradley,
10651 Martinsburg Rd,
Utica, Ohio 43080

saint mary homecoming 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 next 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 11 came to \$1,150.

st vincent de paul

The next St Vincent de Paul meeting will be Tuesday, 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

The first session of the new PSR year is today, 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 & 1st grade Angi Skinner
- 2nd grade Wyatt Borah
- 3rd & 4th grade Shawna Kunkler & Cody Schmelzer
- 6th & 7th grade Jerry & Tyna Schmelzer

ministers at mass at bremen st mary

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sunday, Sept 18 8:30 AM	Susan Foltz	Spencer Conrad Jillian Wilkinson	Susan Foltz, Leo Kunkler Sr, Jim Schmelzer	John Schoenlaub family	Jim Schmelzer
Sunday, Sept 25 8:30 AM	Paul Kunkler	Caelie Bell Abby Skinner	Irene Kunkler, Pam Redding, Angi Skinner	Paul Kunkler family	Damian 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.colscss.org.

the beauty of the feminine

The 5th 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 5th 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).

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 Gehrlisch, 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 . wmmccolumbus . org](http://www.wmccolumbus.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 excuse?

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.

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. 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

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 PM Thursday 3 PM Saturday; 8:30 AM on 1st Sat	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	1st 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 17	25 th Sunday	Amos	8:4-7	1 Timothy 2:1-8	Psalm 113	Luke 16:1-13
Sun	Sept 18						
Mon	Sept 19	St Januarius	Proverbs	3:27-34		Psalm 15	Luke 8:16-18
Tues	Sept 20	Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Companions	Proverbs	21:1-13		Psalm 119	Luke 8:19-21
Weds	Sept 21	St Matthew	Ephesians	4:1-13		Psalm 19	Matthew 9:9-13
Thurs	Sept 22		Ecclesiastes	1:2-11		Psalm 90	Luke 9:7-9
Fri	Sept 23	St Pius of Pietrelcina	Ecclesiastes	3:1-11		Psalm 144	Luke 9:18-22
Sat	Sept 24		Ecclesiastes	11:9-12:8		Psalm 90	Luke 9:43-45
Sun	Sept 23	26 th Sunday	Amos	6:1-7	1 Timothy 6:11-16	Psalm 146	Luke 16:19-31

Mother Teresa's Plea

continued from the bottom of the following page

was able to recognize the sanctity of human life. You must weep that your own government, at present, seems blind to this truth.

I have no new teaching for America. I seek only to recall you to faithfulness to what you once taught the world. Your nation was founded on the proposition—very old as a moral precept, but startling and innovative as a political insight—that human life is a gift of immeasurable worth, and that it deserves, always and everywhere, to be treated with the utmost dignity and respect. I urge the Court to take the opportunity presented by the petitions in these cases to consider the fundamental question of when human life begins and to declare without equivocation the inalienable rights which it possesses.

St Teresa of Calcutta founded the Missionaries of Charity, a religious order devoted to serving the poor. She received the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her work "in bringing help to suffering humanity." Thanks to the Witherspoon Institute for this reminder.

A 1994 Message to the US Supreme Court

Mother Teresa's Plea on Abortion

by St. Teresa of Calcutta

Mother Teresa of Calcutta was canonized a few weeks back by Pope Francis. In 1994, she submitted an amicus brief, filed by her counsel Robert P George, pleading with the United States Supreme Court to reverse its decision in Roe v Wade. Here is the text of her brief.

I hope you will count it no presumption that I seek your leave to address you on behalf of the unborn child. Like that child I can be considered an outsider. I am not an American citizen. My parents were Albanian. I was born before the First World War in a part of what was not yet, and is no longer, Yugoslavia. In many senses I know what it is like to be without a country. I also know what it is like to feel an adopted citizen of other lands. When I was still a young girl I traveled to India. I found my work among the poor and the sick of that nation, and I have lived there ever since.

Since 1950 I have worked with my many sisters from around the world as one of the Missionaries of Charity. Our congregation now has over four hundred foundations in more than one hundred countries, including the United States of America. We have almost five thousand sisters. We care for those who are often treated as outsiders in their own communities by their own neighbors—the starving, the crippled, the impoverished, and the diseased, from the old woman with a brain tumor in Calcutta to the youngman with AIDS in New York City.

A special focus of our care is mothers and their children. This includes mothers who feel pressured to sacrifice their unborn children by want, neglect, despair, and philosophies and government policies that promote the dehumanization of inconvenient human life. And it includes the children themselves, innocent and utterly defenseless, who are at the mercy of those who would deny their humanity. So, in a sense, my sisters and those we serve are all outsiders together. At the same time, we are supremely conscious of the common bonds of humanity that unite us and transcend national boundaries.

In another sense, no one in the world who prizes liberty and human rights can feel anything but a strong kinship with America. Yours is the one great nation in all of history that was founded on the precept of equal rights and respect for all humankind, for the poorest and weakest of us as well as the richest and strongest. As your Declaration of Independence put it, in words that have never lost their power to stir the heart:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...”

A nation founded on these principles holds a sacred trust: to stand as an example to the rest of the world, to climb ever higher in its practical realization of the ideals of human dignity, brotherhood, and mutual respect. Your constant efforts in fulfillment of that mission, far more than your size or your wealth or your military might, have made America an inspiration to all mankind.

It must be recognized that your model was never one of realized perfection, but of ceaseless aspiration. From the outset, for example, America denied the African slave his freedom and human dignity. But in time you righted that wrong, albeit at an incalculable cost in human suffering and loss of life. Your impetus has almost always been toward a fuller, more all-embracing conception and assurance of the rights that your founding fathers recognized as inherent and God-given. Yours has ever been an inclusive, not an exclusive, society. And your steps, though they may have paused or faltered now and then, have been pointed in the right direction and have trod the right path. The task has not always been an easy one, and each new generation has faced its own challenges and temptations. But in a uniquely courageous and inspiring way, America has kept faith.

Yet there has been one infinitely tragic and destructive departure from those American ideals in recent memory. It was this Court's own decision in *Roe v. Wade* (1973) to exclude the unborn child from the human family. You ruled that a mother, in consultation with her doctor, has broad discretion, guaranteed against infringement by the United States Constitution, to choose to destroy her unborn child. Your opinion stated that you did not need to “resolve the difficult question of when life begins.” That question is inescapable. If the right to life in an inherent and inalienable right, it must surely exist wherever life exists. No one can deny that the unborn child is a distinct being, that it is human, and that it is alive. It is unjust, therefore, to deprive the unborn child of its fundamental right to life on the basis of its age, size, or condition of dependency. It was a sad infidelity to America's highest ideals when this Court said that it did not matter, or could not be determined, when the inalienable right to life began for a child in its mother's womb.

America needs no words from me to see how your decision in *Roe v. Wade* has deformed a great nation. The so-called right to abortion has pitted mothers against their children and women against men. It has sown violence and discord at the heart of the most intimate human relationships. It has aggravated the derogation of the father's role in an increasingly fatherless society. It has portrayed the greatest of gifts—a child—as a competitor, an intrusion, and an inconvenience. It has nominally accorded mothers unfettered domination over the independent lives of their physically dependent sons and daughters. And, in granting this unconscionable power, it has exposed many women to unjust and selfish demands from their husbands or other sexual partners.

Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being's entitlement by virtue of his humanity. The right to life does not depend, and must not be declared to be contingent, on the pleasure of anyone else, not even a parent or a sovereign. The Constitutional Court of the Federal Republic of Germany recently ruled that “the unborn child is entitled to its rights to life independently of acceptance by its mother; this is an elementary and inalienable right that emanates from the dignity of the human being” ... Germany in 1993

Continued on the bottom of the previous page

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