

## Saint Bernadette Parish

## Saint Mary Parish

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

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

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



### The Risen Lord Raising the Dead

Adam and Eve reach out to Jesus.

He takes them by the wrist not by the hand, for he is not meeting them as equals: He raises them to life !  
On the last day he will raise us to life as well

“... the hope God gives of being raised up by him”

“Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full”

“That the dead will rise even Moses made known in the passage about the bush,  
when he called out ‘Lord,’ the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob;  
and he is not God of the dead, but of the living,  
for to him all are alive.”

*2 Maccabees 7*

*Psalm 7*

*Luke 20*

## the 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the Year

NOVEMBER 6, 2016

November is the Month of All the Souls in Purgatory

## our parishes

### AT BOTH PARISHES

<b>Fr Thomas Kessler</b>	pastor	(614) 634-0499	<i>wnthomaskessler@icloud.com</i>
<b>Kathy Kehnast</b>	pastoral coordinator	(740) 654-1893	<i>stbernaparish@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>businessmstbparish@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	(740) 569-7929	

### 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.27@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, M W Th F; 11 AM-1 PM, Tu 1343 Wheeling Rd NE, Lancaster, OH 43130

### AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

<b>Pam Eltringham</b>	principal	(740) 654-3137	<i>peltring@cducation.org</i>
<b>Barb Huber</b>	secretary	(740) 654-3137	<i>bhuber@cducation.org</i>

**Saint Bernadette School** is at 1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701 *stbernan@cducation.org* [www.stbernadetteschool.com](http://www.stbernadetteschool.com)

## the 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, Nov 30. Take the class before your 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.

### ANOINTING 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

### WITH THE CHURCH THIS WEEK

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours.

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.

### WITH THE HOLY FATHER DURING NOVEMBER

His universal intention is :

That countries which take in displaced persons and refugees may find support for their efforts which show solidarity.

His evangelization intention is :

That within parishes, priests and lay people may collaborate in service to the community without giving in to the temptation of discouragement

# Mass times and intentions

at St Bernadette		at St Mary	
4 PM	<i>for the people</i>	Saturday, Nov 5	
		Sunday, Nov 6	8:30 AM <i>for the people</i>
11 AM	<i>for the people</i>	Sunday, Nov 6	
8:20 AM	<i>Wilford &amp; Loretta Beiter</i>	Monday, Nov 7	
		Tuesday, Nov 8	8:20 AM <i>Marie Young</i>
8:20 AM	<i>Anna Alonso</i>	Wednesday, Nov 9	
6 PM	<i>Margaret Kessler</i>	Thursday, Nov 10	
8:20 AM	<i>Paul Dreyer</i>	Friday, Nov 11	
4 PM	<i>deceased members of John Schmelzer family</i>	Saturday, Nov 12	
		Sunday, Nov 13	8:30 AM <i>for the people</i>
11 AM	<i>for the people</i>	Sunday, Nov 13	

## at st mary and st bernadette

### st vincent de paul 5<sup>th</sup> (?) sunday

Members of the Bremen St Vincent de Paul Society will be at the doors of Bremen St Mary after Mass today to accept your donations. Likewise, members of the Lancaster St Vincent de Paul Society will be at Mass at St Bernadette (postponed from last Sunday) to receive your gifts. Please continue your generous giving. They operate entirely on income from their store and your voluntary donations.

### veterans day assembly

St Bernadette School students and staff cordially invite all military veterans to join them for a **patriotic assembly**. Please let them honor your service to our country by sharing with you some songs, poems, and light refreshments. Join them Friday, Nov 11, at 9:30 AM in the parish hall. To help them plan for your visit and tribute, RSVP to the school office at (740) 654-3137.

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

Thank you to St Bernadette Parish family and friends for your work and generous giving to Jillian's Dinner. This year's dinner raised \$6,700 to help the family of Monica Hoover. Continue to pray for Monica, for all those who are ill, and for their caregivers.

### choir

The Saint Cecilia Society (St Bernadette's parish youth choir) meets on Sundays at 6 PM in the church. All parish students in grades 2-8 (public, parochial, or home school) are invited. SCS members in grades 4-8 are also invited to be members of the Handbell Ensemble, which meets on Sunday evenings at 7 PM, right after the full SCS gathering. **Mrs Latorre can answer questions** and provide registration materials after Mass, or you may call or text her at (740) 243-1872.

### adult choir

St Augustine once said, "**He who sings, prays twice.**" The St Bernadette adult choir has resumed practicing on Wednesdays at 7 PM in the church. Our adult choir is both a vocal ensemble devoted to making beautiful music for the Lord and a small faith family within our parish. We love to welcome new members into this family. Membership in the choir is an opportunity to be involved in the parish and grow in your faith. Contact Liz Latorre at (740) 243-1872 if you have questions.

### psr (aka parish school of religion)

PSR has begun but it is not too late to enroll students. Remember: 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 is an irreplaceable and joy-filled part of their upbringing**.

### advent family fun day

Begin the Advent Season with an Advent Family Fun Day on Sunday, Nov 27, from 12-2 pm in the St Bernadette parish hall. There will be a **pancake breakfast** fundraiser for youth **attending Catholic Youth Summer Camp**, seasonal crafts, cookie making, as well as an opportunity to purchase Advent Wreaths and seasonal books. If anyone with a child attending CSYC this summer would like to help raise funds to offset the cost, please contact Kara . tencza @ gmail . com.

### school poinsettia sale

Poinsettias and other Christmas greenery are available this year **from St Bernadette School**. These gorgeous holiday flowers and greenery make great gifts or beautiful decorations for your home or office. Orders are due on Monday, Nov 7, with pickup on Friday, Dec 2, from 2:30 - 6 PM in the St Bernadette Parish Hall. To view the items, go to [www.foertmeyerandsons.com](http://www.foertmeyerandsons.com) Contact Nikki Schmelzer at (330) 204-3911 or [nschmelz@cducation.org](mailto:nschmelz@cducation.org) with questions.

### school book fair

Hundreds of children's books, as well as religious books, adult best-sellers, and unique cookbooks, will be available for immediate purchase at the **St Bernadette Scholastic Book Fair** in the school library during the week of November 12-18. Times are Monday through Wednesday from 7:30 AM to 3:15 PM; Thursday from 7:30 AM to 8 PM; and Friday from 7:30 AM until noon. Parishioners are invited to shop at a special preview event offered before and after the Vigil and Sunday Masses on Nov 12 and 13. Plan to come check out all the new titles. Proceeds help to build classroom collections and to support the school library. Sale flyers are available on the table in the school entry.

### parish contributions

The **St Bernadette offertory** for Oct 30 came to \$6,386. The **St Mary offertory collection** for Oct 30 came to \$1,811.

### hurricane matthew collection

Last Sunday St Bernadette collected \$1,587 and St Mary collected \$276 for relief for communities affected by Hurricane Matthew in the Caribbean and the southeastern United States.

#### a letter to st bernadette school parents

Dear Parents,

Over the years, I have been honored to be a part of the St. Bernadette School community. During this time, I have had the opportunity to visit schools in various parts of OH as an External Review Chairperson for the accrediting process (Ohio Catholic Schools Accrediting Association). I have visited schools in Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Dayton, to name a few. These schools were small, large, combined and one school even shared its building with a magnet school. Let me say this—**WE ARE A GREAT SCHOOL!! The accommodations made for our students, the extra steps our teachers are willing to take, the open door policy (once you are inside the building), the compassion and empathy that develops in our students, the feeling of happiness that surrounds you as you walk through the doors, and the world view our students develop as they participate in service learning** make us great.

Now to move on to academics—Our Terra Nova test results show us that our students perform well above the national average. We also do very well when compared with students in our Diocese. Our Star Reading and Math Assessments indicate that at least 95% of our students achieve a year's growth within the span of the school year. Our students fearlessly develop and test their hypotheses during our STEM CLUB, presentations are developed on Google slides and students share ideas with their class, OG strategies are practiced as our students finger-spell and sky write their way to greatness.

We have so many great things to offer our current students and our future students. We have the support of our Pastor, our Diocese, and you, our Parents. **We will continue to do great things.**

As we continue to shine our light of learning and compassion I would like to ask you to help us by sharing this light on Facebook and Instagram, by meeting your neighbor on the playground for a play date and by sharing your positive experiences with others.

Blessings,  
Pam Eltringham [principal]  
From the Beehive...  
October 26, 2016

### collection to help the ministry to catholic veterans and soldiers, sailors, marines, and coast guards

The Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) Collection happens next Sunday, Nov 13. The AMS provides **the same pastoral care and services as any other Catholic diocese, to Catholics serving in the United States Armed Forces, or undergoing treatment at any Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers**, as well as persons working in civilian jobs for the federal government beyond US borders. The collection for the AMS coincides with Veterans Day and is held only every third year. These are **real needs**. So please be really generous.

### Mass of remembrance

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

From St Mary Bremen:

Helen Kunkler, Tom Kunkler

And from St Bernadette:

Ann Ciegalis, Robert Daubenmire, Dolores Dill,  
Paul Gallagher, Kenneth Hauser, Linda Hinton,  
Margaret Kessler, Donald Libert, William Mahon,  
Gloria Mast, Kathryn Mooney, Tom Stover,  
Jean Wadsworth

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

## in the diocese of columbus

### morning of reflection

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) will sponsor a morning of reflection on Saturday, Nov 19, at Sts Augustine and Gabriel Church in Columbus beginning at 10 AM. The talks on **"God is Here, God is Now"** will be presented by Sr Louis Mary Passeri, OP. Cost to attend is \$20 per person and includes lunch; registration begins at 9:30 AM. To register, send your name, address, email, phone number, and payment to DCCW, 197 E Gay St, Columbus, OH, 43215, by Tuesday, Nov 15, or visit [www.dccw.org](http://www.dccw.org). For questions, call Mickey McCormick at (614) 783-5555.

### catholic youth summer camp

Catholic Youth Summer Camp is Ohio's one week-long, residential high adventure camp for students entering grades 6-12. Activities typically include jet skis, water tubing, paintball, blobbing, high ropes, archery tag, zip lining, rock climbing, giant swing, and mountain boarding. CYSC offers **a truly Catholic and safe environment with daily catechesis that awakens faith and builds missionary disciples**. A week at camp includes daily Mass, adoration, reconciliation, small group conversations, worship, service and authentic community. Go to [www.cysc.com](http://www.cysc.com) for information and to register for 2017 dates: high school sessions run the weeks of June 11, 18, 25, and July 2; middle school sessions run the weeks of July 9, 16, 23, and 30. Registration is open now.

### 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).

### sts peter & paul retreat center needs help

Have you or a member of your family ever participated in a group or personal retreat at the Sts Peter and Paul Retreat Center? If you have, the experience was spiritually uplifting and rejuvenating for your soul. They ask for our prayerful consideration and our continued support of the Sts Peter and Paul Retreat Center. They need assistance through our tax deductible donations that will be update and improve their facility. They will continue to operate the Retreat Center in a frugal manner so that more retreatants will be able to enjoy the peace, tranquility and spirituality that Sts Peter and Paul Retreat Center offers. The needed updates and



required improvements to enhance current and future retreatant experiences include:

- energy efficient boiler system (replacing the unit from 1955)
- wifi accessibility
- refrigerated storage unit (compressors and condensers)
- air conditioning the chapel and north hall.

Mail your tax deductible donation to: Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road, Newark, OH 43056

## in the deanery

### last chance (for this year) to help the sisters *ora et labora!* (aka “work and pray”)

Join the Sisters of Children of Mary at 8353 Pleasant Chapel Rd in Newark on Saturday, Nov 12, They have over 50 felled trees with limbs that need to be cut into 9 foot lengths. They also need help to clear brush and put into a burn pile. Bring chainsaws, if you have them. No experience necessary. (sic) Mass begins at 9 AM. Lunch is provided. The day ends with a Holy Hour at 4 PM. RSVP to childrenofmary @ junos . com or (740) 323-1977.

### circleville employment opportunity

St Joseph Church in Circleville, Ohio, is hiring a **full-time (30/week) parish secretary**. For information, visit <http://www.saintjosephcircleville.com/employment-opportunities/> or contact

the parish office: office @ saintjosephcircleville . com or (740) 477-2549, x300.

### fisher catholic open house

Fisher Catholic High School will hold an **Open House** on Sunday, Nov 20, from 9 AM to 1 PM. Fisher Catholic is dedicated to the development of Catholic Christian values, academic skills and social experiences by providing a strong academic foundation within the Catholic tradition. Meet faculty, staff, and coaches; take a guided tour of the facilities; and hear presentations from the principal, Mr Joe Jasinski, and guidance office at 9:30 AM. Come explore Fisher Catholic and register to win a \$500 tuition grant and other door prizes. Contact Julie Kilbarger at (740) 654-1231 or jkilbarg @ cdeducation . org for information.

An **Irish4Life Pancake Breakfast** happens simultaneously from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. The menu includes blueberry, chocolate chip or regular pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk, and juice. Eat as much as you like; the cost is your generous donation.

### st mary holiday happening

The Saint Mary Home and School Association presents the 2016 Holiday Happening on Saturday, Nov 12, from 3 PM until 8 PM and Sunday Nov 13, from 10 AM until 3 PM. Join in family fun featuring children’s games, live entertainment, chicken & noodle dinner, bake sale, and silent and live auctions.

### ministers at Mass at st Bernadette

			lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion		
Saturday,	Nov 5	4 PM	Marguerite Grimm	Kendall Cox, Clara & Susan Craaybeek	Terry Carpenter Tara Craaybeek	Rosalie DeFillippo Kathy Kehnast	Brad Rider Craig Shaw
Sunday,	Nov 6	11 AM	Patrick Gins	Eve Darfus, Isabelle Gentile, Daniel Turner	Nancy Griffith Amy Woo	Becky Wickham Bob & Angie Christy	Jean Robertson
Monday,	Nov 7	8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Joey Mannella, Mitchell Ortiz	Pat Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast	
Wednesday	Nov 9	8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Becca Fuller, Sarah Woo	Mary Guinan	Mary Jane Vajen	
Thursday,	Nov 10	6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Brianna Hilyard, Carley Matson	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan	
Friday,	Nov 11	8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Jack Gentile, Gunner Robertson	Jim & Rita Merk		
Saturday,	Nov 12	4 PM	Sandy Landefeld	Samantha Kerns, Dominic & Emeline Neighbor	Susan Garrett Marguerite Grimm	Denise McGuire Jim & Becky Kuhn	Mickey Steyaert
Sunday,	Nov 13	11 AM	John Hartig	Anna Hartig, Jack Tencza, Diana Woo	Tara Craaybeek Ben Peters	Larry Sanford Anna Sevigny	David Shonk Mary Jane Vajen

### ministers at Mass at bremen st mary

			lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sunday,	Nov 6	8:30 AM	Susan Foltz	Reagan & Spencer Conrad	Neil Boch, Wyatt Borah, Susan Foltz	Leo Kunkler Sr family	Damian Schmelzer
Sunday,	Nov 13	8:30 AM	Paul Kunkler	Caelie Bell Sydnee Rogers	Irene Kunkler, Leo Kunkler Sr, Pam Redding	Paul Kunkler family	Jim Schmelzer

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

Sat	Nov 5	32 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	2 Maccabees	7:1-14	2 Thessalonians	2:16-3:5	Psalms	17	Luke	20:27-38
Sun	Nov 6									
Mon	Nov 7		Titus	1:1-9			Psalms	24	Luke	17:1-6
Tues	Nov 8		Titus	2:1-14			Psalms	37	Luke	17:7-10
Weds	Nov 9	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	Ezekiel	47:1-12	1 Corinthians	3:9-17	Psalms	46	John	2:13-22
Thurs	Nov 10	St Leo the Great	Philemon	7-20			Psalms	146	Luke	17:20-25
Fri	Nov 11	St Martin of Tours	2 John	4-9			Psalms	119	Luke	17:26-37
Sat	Nov 12	St Josaphat	3 John	5-8			Psalms	112	Luke	18:1-8
Sun	Nov 13	33 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Malachi	3:19-20	2 Thessalonians	3:7-12	Psalms	98	Luke	21:5-19

confessions & weekday Mass nearby		These times sometimes change, though, so call ahead!						
parish	confessions	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Bremen	St Mary	8 AM Sunday		8:20 AM				
Lancaster	St Bernadette	5:30 PM 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 Holy See affirms the Church’s preference for burial

October 25, 2016

*The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the office responsible for overseeing the continuing fidelity to the teaching of the Catholic Church, has released **To Rise with Christ**, an instruction on the burial of the deceased and the conservation of the ashes in the case of cremation.*

Pope Francis made public on Oct 25 a clarification of the way the teaching of the Faith must be followed out by pastoral practice. Its purpose is to emphasize “the doctrinal and pastoral reasons for the preference of the burial of the remains of the faithful and to set out norms pertaining to the conservation of ashes in the case of cremation.”

The Church first permitted cremation in 1963, “but new ideas contrary to the Church’s faith have also become widespread,” the Congregation noted.

“Following the most ancient Christian tradition, the Church insistently recommends that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places,” the Congregation stated. “In memory of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord, the mystery that illumines the Christian meaning of death, **burial is above all the most fitting way to express faith and hope in the resurrection of the body.**”

The Congregation continued:

By burying the bodies of the faithful, the Church confirms her faith in the resurrection of the body, and intends to show **the great dignity of the human body as an integral part of the human person whose body forms part of their identity.** She cannot, therefore, condone attitudes or permit rites that involve **erroneous ideas about death**, such as considering death as the definitive annihilation of the person, or the moment of fusion with Mother Nature or the universe, or as a stage in the cycle of regeneration, or as the definitive liberation from the “prison” of the body ...

The burial of the faithful departed in cemeteries or other sacred places encourages family members and the whole Christian community to **pray for and remember the dead**, while at the same time fostering the veneration of martyrs and saints.

Turning to cremation, the Congregation established:

- “In circumstances when cremation is chosen because of sanitary, economic or social considerations, this choice must never violate the explicitly-stated or the reasonably inferable **wishes of the deceased faithful.**”
- “The Church continues to **prefer the practice of burying the bodies of the deceased, because this shows a greater esteem towards the deceased.** Nevertheless, **cremation is not prohibited**, unless it was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian doctrine.”
- “When, for legitimate motives, cremation of the body has been chosen, **the ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery or, in certain cases, in a church or an area, which has been set aside for this purpose, and so dedicated by the competent ecclesial authority.**”
- “The **conservation of the ashes** of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted” except in “grave and exceptional cases dependent on cultural conditions of a localized nature” with permission of the bishop. “Nonetheless, the ashes **may not be divided** among various family members and due respect must be maintained regarding the circumstances of such a conservation.”
- “In order that every appearance of pantheism, naturalism or nihilism be avoided, it is **not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful** departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects.”

“When the deceased ... has requested cremation and the scattering of their ashes for reasons contrary to the Christian faith, a **Christian funeral must be denied** to that person,” the Congregation concluded.

## Prayer for the Intercession of St. Thomas More

O Glorious St. Thomas More, patron of statesmen, politicians, judges and lawyers, your life of prayer and penance and your zeal for justice, integrity and firm principle in public and family life led you to the path of martyrdom and sainthood.

Intercede for our statesmen, politicians, judges and lawyers, that they may be courageous and effective in their defense and promotion of the sanctity of human life—the foundation of all other human rights.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Rendering to Caesar ... on Election Day

*“Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”*

Matthew 22:21

I have to admit I am tired of all this election talk. Especially in the presidential elections. It seems like this year’s elections have been going on for years. The amount spent on the elections is unprecedented. The rhetoric has sometimes been very negative. I’ll be glad when this process is over for the year. But almost as soon as the votes are cast, two sad things will probably happen: Many voices will be raised expressing hatred for whoever it is we will elect. We have been doing that in our country, but it has taken a huge step for the worse this time. People have long said that they are all crooks or that they didn’t like either candidate. But this time around the word seems to be that many people can’t figure how to vote for either candidate, that either would be a disaster. What will happen to the two political parties is anybody’s guess. There is a lot of resentment in the air. The one thing we can count on is that we will set yet another new record in the amount of money that will be spent this year. And next year’s batch of candidates will be positioning themselves, raising money, and gathering endorsements for 2020.

With those depressing thoughts in mind, it is good to get back to **what the Lord had to say about political life**. He never endorsed anyone, of course. His words about the emperor might seem ambiguous: “Render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” To make sense out of these words, we have to ask ourselves: What *is* Caesar’s? What *is* God’s? The second question is the easier to answer, the harder to live out. *Everything* is God’s. He made us, we belong to him.

All reality is *not* made up of two separate parts on the opposite sides of some imaginary “wall of separation between Church and state.” In fact, that wall is not to be found in our American founding documents. It does not arise from the “render to Caesar” saying of Jesus. The idea that religion is for time in church or at home, and politics is for time at work or at the court house or in the voting booth—that idea is gaining in acceptance, but it is not in accord with the teaching of Jesus, and it is a destructive idea which Catholics should reject.

When the Lord said “**render to Caesar** what is Caesar’s,” he undoubtedly meant paying our taxes, defending our country against her enemies, voting in her elections, saluting the flag—in short, doing the sorts of things that constitute being a good citizen. In short, being patriotic. But *all* things belong to God. Counties, flags, votes, armies, and taxes included. The way we are involved with these realities is the political aspect of our faithful service of our God.

“**Rendering to God**” doesn’t just mean going to church or supporting her mission. It also means acknowledging that no government or party is or can ever become the ultimate ground of our being, hope of our future, or source of our truth. What God teaches must never be put on an equal footing with any aspect of the state. That is what the fascists and the communists did; that was what was wrong with their ways of looking at life. It is a recurrent temptation even in a democracy. And it is the way to tyranny. The letter to the Hebrews reminds us: “*here we have no lasting city, but we seek the one that is to come*” (13:14).

Is there a Catholic way to vote? Well, only to the extent that as a Catholic I must vote for a society that is ethically constructed, that respects the will of God; that I vote for people who act with integrity in seeking such a society. The moral teaching of the Catholic Church provides some moral undergirdings for our citizenship: it teaches the duty of every person to respect the dignity of human life. It teaches the duty to seek justice for all and to respect the reality of the family. It also teaches that a Catholic citizen must be concerned about good government, so that the Church and her sons and daughters may get on with her mission unimpeded: “*First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity*” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Of course, nearly every politician claims to be God-fearing and to strive for what God would approve. But very many of them seem not to be on the same page as the Church on its moral teaching. In that case, a Catholic may have to choose the best available option. For sorting out that best option, we return to the teaching of the Church’s Scriptures:

*I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him. For that will mean life for you, a long life for you to live on the land which the LORD swore he would give to your fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.*

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

—Father Kessler

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