

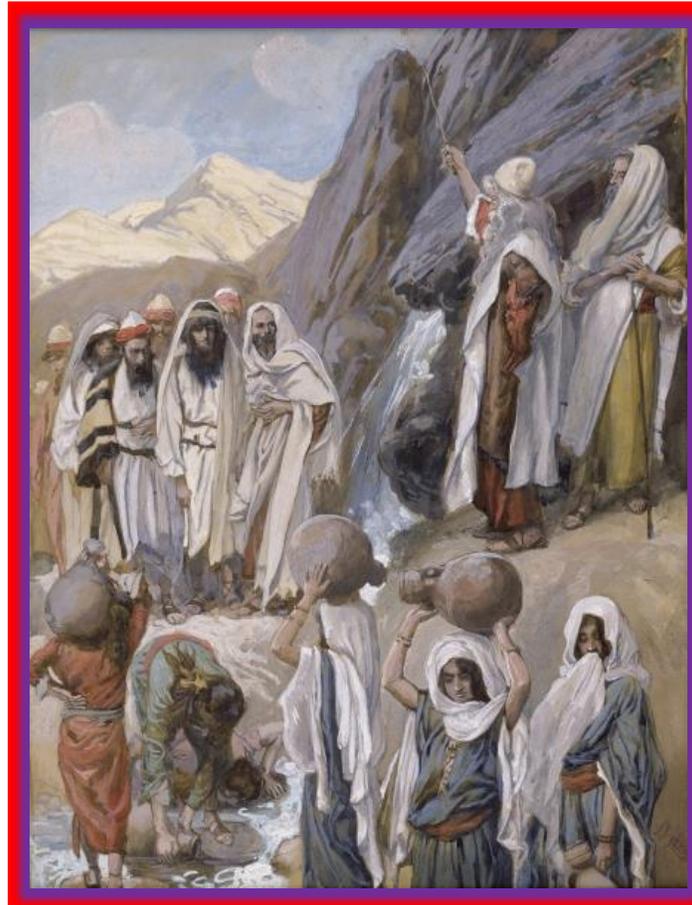
St Bernadette Parish

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

St Mary Parish

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

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



Moses Strikes the Rock

Painted (between 1896 and 1902) by James Tissot (1836-1902)

the scene of today's reading from the Book of Exodus

Jewish Museum, New York City

The 3rd Sunday of Lent

MARCH 19, 2017

belonging to a parish

It makes sense that Holy Mother the Church expects that we will worship in the parish where we live. There are exceptions: military people, college students, people visiting or caring for relatives, and the like. But we all live somewhere and have neighbors. We go to the Church there, with them. If you have moved to another place (or from another place), for more or less all of the foreseeable future, you should register in the parish in the new place. If you are going to be a practicing Catholic, you will most likely practice your faith with the people who live nearby and in the church that is nearby. We are not like some Christian denominations for whom membership in a congregation is permanent and is a matter of taste preferences. Our permanent membership is in the Catholic Church; parish membership needs to be registered with the parish where we live. Our “home parish” is important to us, but if we don’t live there anymore it is not likely to be our actual place of worship on anything like a regular basis. For purposes of baptism, first Communion, confirmation, marriage, sacramental sponsorship, burial, and such, the parish where we have registered and where we ordinarily worship is the one that counts. This has been the practice of the Catholic Church for a very long time, but it only becomes obvious when people grow up, establish a home, and sometimes have to move to another place. Whether it is here or there, register in the parish where you worship on Sundays!

our parishes

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

AT ST BERNADETTE PARISH

<http://stbernadetteparish.net>

MARK SCARPITTI (740) 438-3970
deacon dcn.mark@frontier.com
JEFF CARPENTER (740) 681-9918
deacon carpenter.277@osu.edu
ANN ESSMAN (740) 653-9347
pastoral minister aessman001@att.net
STEVE HUBER (740) 654-3137
facilities coordinator shuber57@yahoo.com
LIZ LATORRE (740) 243-1872
liturgical music lizlаторre@gmail.com

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

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

AT BREMEN ST MARY PARISH

BEN FACTOR
liturgical music b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us
JIM SCHMELZER
maintenance chair (740) 215-3894
TYNA FOX-SCHMELZER
religious education (614) 371-7702

The St Mary Parish office is at the church vestibule.

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

AT BOTH PARISHES

NIKKI SCHMELZER (740) 654-1893
bookkeeper businessmstbparish@yahoo.com
KATHY KEHNAST (740) 654-1893
pastoral coordinator stbernparish@yahoo.com
ANGIE & KENT KERNS (740) 654-2588
religious education kwkerns@gmail.com
JULIE & CHASE STALFORD (740) 808-7294
youth ministry maristellaspirit@gmail.com

AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

PAM ELTRINGHAM peltring@cducation.org
principal
BARB HUBER bhuber@cducation.org
secretary

Saint Bernadette School is located at
1325 Wheeling Rd, (740) 654-3137
Lancaster, OH 43130-8701
www.stbernadetteschool.com
stbernlan@cducation.org.

sacramental life

BAPTISM

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

At least one parent must be a practicing Catholic. Both godparents need to be practicing Catholics. If you don’t attend Sunday Mass regularly (a major component of being a practicing Catholic), there is something you can do about it: Start coming to Sunday Mass.

PENANCE

The priest is available for Penance

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

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 AND CARE OF THE SICK

The Sick receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick when dangerously ill, facing major surgery, or suffering from the ravages of old age. We celebrate the sacrament communally at a Sunday Mass before Advent and during the Easter season so that we can all pray with you for “health of mind and body.”

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

HOLY MATRIMONY

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

Remember, Catholics who marry outside the Church have left the sacramental life and need to change that situation before receiving the other sacraments.

The Church wishes to support couples **through the years** of their married life. That’s why our diocese offers programs to enhance married life. To learn about these programs, watch the weekly bulletin.

praying this week

with the Church today

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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 pope in March: support for persecuted Christians

He asks us to pray that persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

God's word at sunday Mass

<i>Sunday, Mar 19,</i>	Exodus 17:3-7	Psalm 95	
<i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>	Romans 5:1-8	John 4:5-42	
<i>Sunday, Mar 26,</i>	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	
<i>4th Sunday in Lent</i>	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41	

God's word during the week

<i>Mon, Mar 20</i>	2 Samuel 7:4-16	Ps 89		
St Joseph	Romans 4:13-22		Matt	1:16-24
<i>Tues, Mar 21</i>	Daniel 3:25-43	Ps 25	Matt	18:21-35
<i>Weds, Mar 22</i>	Deuteronomy 4:1-9	Ps 147	Matt	5:17-19
<i>Thurs, Mar 23</i>	Jeremiah 7:23-28	Ps 95	Luke	11:14-23
<i>Fri, Mar 24</i>	Hosea 14:2-10	Ps 81	Mark	12:28-34
<i>Sat, Mar 25</i>	Isaiah 7:10-8:10	Ps 4		
Annunciation	Hebrews 10:4-10		Luke	1:26-38

in both parishes

christian initiation

Please pray for the new members (albeit not yet full members) of the household of faith, who have ratified their desire to become baptized members of the Catholic Church and are preparing for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Our elect include **Ralph Mohler** and his son **Bryant** of Bremen St Mary, and **Jennifer Palmer** of St Bernadette. At the Rite of Election when they inscribed their names in the Book of the Elect, they began the period of final, more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation, during which they will be encouraged to follow Christ with greater generosity. Lent is the season of their final preparation to become baptized members of the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

And **Dick Usilton** of St Bernadette Parish will make a profession of his Catholic Faith, be confirmed, and receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter. He has been preparing for entry into the Church on a separate schedule because of scheduling problems. His sacramental reception is different because he is already a baptized Christian. But your prayers for all four are still very much appreciated.



walking with purpose

The current 9-week session of **Walking With Purpose**, our women's faith sharing group, began Wednesday morning, Mar 15, at the St Bernadette Mary Good Center and Thursday, Mar 16, at the St Mary Spirit Center. You can still register. For Wednesday mornings, contact Amy Woo at acfaching@yahoo.com or (414) 882-1863. For Thursday evenings, contact Gina McCauley at ginammcauley@icloud.com. New participants and friends are welcome. Come to as many sessions as your schedule allows.

irish alumni golf outing 2017

Alumni of St Mary, Bishop Fenwick and Fisher Catholic High Schools play at Pleasant Valley Golf Course, Coonpath Road, Lancaster, on Saturday, June 10, at 9 AM shotgun start, \$150 per team, 3 player scramble format. Make checks payable to A One Events, LLC. Mail with entry to: A One Events, PO Box 961, Lancaster, OH 43130, and include player name, class year, email or phone. For information contact Mike Wolshire at (740) 687-0055 or mike@miller-lewis.com.

catholic foundation scholarships

The Catholic Foundation **will award scholarships to 22 students in the Columbus diocese**. To streamline the scholarship funds stewarded by the Foundation process, the Foundation has a complete listing of available scholarships, qualifications, and applications on its website. The scholarship deadline is Apr 7, and the recipients will be notified in May. Recipients are selected according to criteria established by donors who created the funds to support gifted and deserving students by assisting them with the costs of their education. Donors often establish scholarship funds to honor or memorialize friends, teachers, family members, or other loved ones. Since 2007, The Catholic Foundation has awarded over \$287,000 in scholarships empowering 94 young people to continue their academic and vocational studies. With continued generosity of donors who share this dedication to education, the Foundation will continue to support students as they answer God's call. For detailed information and the full list of scholarships, call the Foundation at (614) 443-8893.

about the catholic foundation

The Catholic Foundation's mission is to inspire giving and assist donors to provide for the long-term needs of the 23-county Diocese of Columbus. The Catholic Foundation fulfills its mission by **seeking donors to establish endowment funds designed to support current and future needs and by distributing earnings according to diocesan priorities and donor intent**. It is one of the oldest and largest Catholic foundations in the country, distributing nearly \$100 million in the diocese since 1985. For information, visit www.catholic-foundation.org

what you may need in your yard

Is there **a lot of traffic** past your house? Then it might just be a good place to put a yard sign that tells the world about St Gabriel Catholic Radio, AM 820. You know, just like the bumper magnet on your car, only bigger and it won't be lost at the car wash. Why on your lawn? To give a **gentle witness to the joyful reality of the Catholic answer to the questions** that so many of our friends and neighbors have. We have **some of those signs at the parish office**. You would be welcome to have one.

at st bernadette parish

ministry at Mass at st bernadette

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
Sat, Mar 18 4 PM	Marguerite Grimm	Gus & Olivia Spiegel, Cady Tipple	Bob & Angie Christy Rosalie DeFillippo	Sandy Landefeld Brad Rider Shelia Taylor
Sun, Mar 19 11 AM	John Hartis	Anna Hartig, Ashlyn & Brennan Quaintance	Tara Craaybeek Kathy Kehnast Teresa Hartig	Ben Peters Larry Sanford Amy Woo
Mon 8:20	Mary Jane Vajen	Jack Gentile Gunner Robertson	Patricia Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast
Weds 8:20	Bob Christy	Becca Fuller Mitchell Ortiz	Angie Christy	Mary Jane Vajen
Thurs 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Lexi Utz Sarah Woo	Rosalie DeFillippo	Paul Lonergan
Fri 8:20	Jim Merk	Carley Matson Joey Mannella	Jim Merk	Rita Merk
Sat, Mar 25 4 PM	Becky Kuhn	Kendall Cox, Clara & Susan Craaybeek	Joyce Guenther Lee Guinan Jim Kuhn	Sandy Landefeld Craig Shaw Kathy Wagner
Sun, Mar 26 11 AM	Teresa Scarpitti	Collin & Emma McCrady, Caroline Messerly	Pat Dreyer Jean Robinson Anna Sevigny	Dave Shonk Mary Jane Vajen Becky Wickham

Mass intentions at st bernadette

Saturday,	Mar 18	4 PM	the people of the parish
Sunday,	Mar 19	11 AM	the people of the parish
Monday,	Mar 20	8:20 AM	William & Mary Keith
Wednesday,	Mar 22	8:20 AM	Gladys McAndrews
Thursday,	Mar 23	6 PM	John & Ann Muetzel
Friday,	Mar 24	8:20 AM	Hugh Patrick Messerly
Saturday,	Mar 25	4 PM	the people of the parish
Sunday,	Mar 26	11 AM	the people of the parish

volunteer opportunity

Jillian's Dinner, a St Bernadette fundraiser held each October for an individual or family in need, has openings for volunteers to chair committees at the dinner and raffle. For information, call Marlene Clark at (740) 687-5709 or Kathy Wagner at (740) 687-0504.

time for spring cleaning

Today, the **St Vincent de Paul Society truck** will be at St Bernadette Church to accept donations of clean clothing and usable household items. Thank you for your continued support.

sunday morning rosary

Come pray the rosary together at St Bernadette on Sunday at 10:35 (shortly before the 11 AM Mass). Pray for the peace that comes to our society from the conversion of our hearts to the Lord.

at st mary parish

Mass intentions at st mary

Sunday,	Mar 19	8:30 AM	for the people of the parish
Tuesday,	Mar 21	8:20 AM	Jerome Schmelzer

Sunday, Mar 26 8:30 AM for the people of the parish

sunday at Mass at bremen st mary

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sun, Mar 19 8:30 AM	Jeanne Schmelzer	Reagan & Spencer Conrad	Pam Redding, Damian & Debbie Schmelzer	Maurice Schmelzer family	Damian Schmelzer
Sun, Mar 26 8:30 AM	Barb Van Fossen-Cook	Caden & Cody Fyffe	Neil Boch, Wyatt Borah, Barb Van Fossen-Cook	Nick Schmelzer family	Nikki Schmelzer

st vincent de paul at bremen

For people in a financial jam, the season of need seems to go on throughout the year, especially when it gets really cold out. So, the **St Vincent de Paul Society in Bremen** takes up a collection after Mass on the first Sunday of the month, every month. New members are always welcome. For information, call Angi Skinner at (740) 438-0027.

in the diocese of columbus

volunteers needed

Looking for a way to serve in 2017? Engaged couples in our diocese need your help. Volunteer to serve on the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Team as a speaker and presenter. Present virtues-based topics to engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony. **If you are currently married, and have wisdom and experience to share**, you already qualify. For information, contact Kathleen Hall at khall @ columbuscatholic . org or (614) 241-2560.

silent retreat for men

The Catholic Layman's Retreat League sponsors a Palm Sunday Silent Retreat for Men from 5:30 PM on Friday, April 7, until noon on Sunday, April 9, at the St Therese Retreat Center in Columbus. Director is Fr Ricardo Pineda CPM and the theme is **Fight the Good Fight: Forming Men for Spiritual Battle**. Cost is \$160. For information call Dave Ball at (614) 753-1696 or Bob Muetzel at (740) 743-3848.

a women's silent retreat

"**The Seven Deadly Sins vs Life to the Full**" is the theme of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's annual Women's Silent Retreat, to be held Mar 31-Apr 2, from 5:30 PM Friday to noon Sunday, at the St Therese Retreat Center in Columbus. Presenter is **Father Charles Shonk, OP**. Event donation is \$115; registration deadline is Mar 22; \$50 is due with registration, balance due at start of event. Visit www.dccw.colodioc.org or contact Mickey McCormick at (614) 228-8601 or mmccormick@columbuscatholic.org for information.

sunday evening Mass

Holy Family Church, 584 West Broad St, Columbus, has begun offering an **8 PM Sunday Mass** to accommodate many people's work schedule. Contact their parish office at (614) 221-4323.

am 820 spring spirit drive

aka reverend on the radio

Among the priests who have been recruited to say a few words of spiritual encouragement during the AM 820 Spring Spirit Drive is our pastor, Fr Kessler. He will be on air on St Gabriel Catholic Radio this Thursday, Mar 23, from 10-11 AM. Tune in to AM 820, tell your friends, and pray for the listener-supported AM 820 radio family. And pray that he will convince someone (you?) to join him in supporting this vital evangelization apostolate.

face forward

Face Forward announces the launch of its first mobile App. Developed for the **Vocations Office** of the Columbus Diocese, this free app contains valuable information for Catholics right at their fingertips. The Face Forward mobile app includes such features as the **verse of the day, pray for priests, care for the common home, saint of the day and the Face Forward blog**. The Office of Vocations recognizes the importance of being able to reach young Catholics where they are, and that place is on their mobile devices. 73% of kids between 5-19 years old are connected within an hour of waking up. Face Forward wants to give them something meaningful to read when they power up. Discerning a vocation and what God is calling you to do can be a long journey full of many questions. Having **easily accessible information is invaluable to the discernment process**. This new app provides just that. Face Forward will continue to add fresh and relevant content to the app daily with the goal of getting users to come back day-to-day for new offerings. With the repeat visits and usage of the app, the hope is that users will gain more love, knowledge and understanding about the Catholic faith and **clarity on what God is calling them to do**. The Face Forward app is available now in the iTunes store. Face Forward is a program of the Office of Vocations that allows for interaction with the youth in the Columbus Diocese and provides platforms for communication, events and opportunities to learn more about the Catholic faith and a life in vocations. There are currently over 12,000 people within the Face Forward community. For information about the Face Forward App, contact Anne Harkin at (614) 787-2377 or anne.harkin@mj2marketing.com.

the holy season of lent

lenten fast and abstinence

During Lent, Catholics in the United States

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

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

way of the cross

On all the Fridays of Lent at **7 PM St Mary and St Bernadette parishes will both pray the Way of the Cross**, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. You could join in. And bring your kids. There are few better ways for them to learn the mystery of the Cross. And for you to let it sink in.

rice bowl

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

2017 crs rice bowl family challenge

"Lent is a favorable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving." (Pope Francis, 2017) Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are foundational to Lent—and to CRS Rice Bowl. Through simple, meatless meals, daily reflections, and an opportunity to give to help others, CRS Rice Bowl embodies these Lenten spiritual pillars in a way that's accessible to Catholics young and old. Consider participating in the 2017 CRS Rice Bowl Family Challenge being sponsored by the diocesan Marriage & Family Life and Social Concerns offices. Pick up a CRS Rice Bowl from your parish.

k of c fish fry

Lancaster **Knights of Columbus** will fry fish on the Fridays of Lent (Mar 24, 31, and Apr 7). After the fish, come to St Bernadette or Bremen St Mary for the Stations of the Cross. Cost (for the fish, not the Stations) for adults is \$8 and for children is \$6. The KofC hall is at 343 East Walnut St.

special events this lent

the Lamb's supper, *the Mass as heaven on earth*

That is, to say the least, a stretch. We usually don't think about it that way. But sometimes we need to stretch, to look more deeply into what it is we do when we worship God at Mass, when we come into communion with the one who died for our sins and that we may have life. Scott Hahn finds a way in, through a refreshed reading of the Book of Revelation in his book. Our parishes distributed 100 copies of *The Lamb's Supper* at Christmas time. Quite a number of people said that reading this book opened their eyes to **the Mass in a whole new way**. Some asked for an opportunity to explore this mystery further. So let's do that for Lent. Here's the plan: **Every Thursday during the Season of Lent** (that's Mar 23, 30, and Apr 6), let's gather for the 6 PM Mass (or come one of those weeks at 5:30 for Confession too). Then we can repair to the Mary Good Center for supper, a very light and brief and Lenten kind of supper with **soup and bread**. No soft drinks, no condiments, no dessert ... but a special supper, none the less. Soon after 7 PM Father Kessler will guide those who attend in learning about and discussing several aspects of **this startling Biblical way of thinking about the Mass**. People might bring along their copy of *The Lamb's Supper* and a New Testament. Hahn's book is not required reading, but it is available at Amazon. **The Book of Revelation is ... a peculiar book**, a book with which we all need guidance. But it is the word of God and guides us on the way to the Truth. These Lenten Thursdays will conclude with prayer before 8:30 PM.

a very fine school

st bernadette school can be affordable

There is money out there for tuition assistance for children attending or hoping to be able to attend our Catholic school. Read on. Here are some sources of substantial financial aid: one is a full scholarship; three others are substantial financial assistance. And if you try all of those without success, let's continue the conversation. Where there is a will, there is a way.

- **EdChoice Expansion Scholarships** are income-based vouchers available for Ohio families from the Ohio Department of Education. Students whose families meet the income eligibility requirements (eg: family of 4, income \$49,200) can attend St Bernadette School next fall at no cost to parents, thanks to scholarships available for kindergartners, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders. This is an extraordinary opportunity for single parents, one-income homes, fixed-income households, and working families. Every family is encouraged to explore this possibility. Contact the school office for information.
- **Local Tuition Assistance** uses the **Diocesan Tuition Assistance** application completed on-line at www.factstuitionaid.com. Local assistance will be awarded based on the prioritized list generated by the diocese. (This does not refer to your parish subsidy).

some more special times

developmental disabilities month

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) facilitates the implementation of the Pastoral Statement of US Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities by calling for **inclusion of people with disabilities in the life of the Church and society**. Many of NCPD's helpful resources can be found online at www.ncpd.org.

40 days for life

From Mar 1 to Apr 9, faithful believers are praying that this effort will mark **the beginning of the end of abortion in America**. This peaceful prayer vigil will take place at an abortion facility in Columbus. Participants are asked to volunteer for one-hour shifts and sign a statement of peace. For details, visit Greater Columbus Right to Life at www.40daysforlife.com/columbus.

fisher catholic spring musical

Fisher Catholic High School is proud to present **Wonderful Town** as their spring musical on Friday, March 24, and Saturday, March 25, at 7:30 PM. The show is a rollicking tribute to New York, Ohio and football! **Wonderful Town** was the winner of 5 Tony awards, including the 1953 award for Best Musical. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for students and can be purchased online at www.fishercatholic.org or at the doors each night. Concessions will be available during intermission.

fisher catholic bid o' luck

You are invited! The 36th Annual Fisher Catholic Bid O' Luck Dinner Auction happens Saturday, April 29, 2017. This year's theme is Moonlit Masquerade, which promises to be an evening of elegance and splendor. Attend a gourmet meal prepared by Cheers & Lakeside Chalet, a full selection of beverages, and fabulous items in the Silent and Grand Auctions. Raffle tickets will be available to win the Pot-of-Gold prizes (one \$7,500 and five \$500 payouts). For information, contact Kellie Shonk at (740) 654-1231, or fishercatholic.org/bid-o-luck.

catholic youth summer camp

Catholic Youth Summer Camp is Ohio's week-long, residential high adventure camp for students entering grades 6-12. 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. This is especially valuable for young people who are not now receiving other catechesis as well as to reinforce catechesis for those who are. Go to www.cysc.com for information and to register for:

- high school sessions in the weeks of June 11, 18, 25, & July 2;
- middle school sessions in the weeks of July 9, 16, 23, & 30.

Registration is open now.

prayer in the morning

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

confessions & weekday Mass nearby				These times sometimes change, though, so be sure to call ahead!			
	Bremen St Mary	Lancaster St Bernadette	Lancaster St Mary	Lancaster St Mark	Sugar Grove St Joseph	Circleville St Joseph	Logan St John
Monday		8:20 AM	7 AM	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM	8 AM
Tuesday	8:20 AM		9 AM	8 AM	NOON	7 AM	8 AM
Wednesday		8:20 AM	7 AM	6 PM	6:30 PM	9 AM	9 AM
Thursday		6 PM	9 AM	8 AM	NOON		
Friday		8:20 AM		8 AM	8 AM	9 AM	8 AM
Saturday		1 st Saturday only 9 AM Mass				10 AM	9 AM
confessions	Sunday @ 8AM	Saturday @ 3 PM & @ 8:30 am on 1st Saturday only	Saturday @ 4 PM	Saturday @ 5:30 PM	½ hour before Mass	Saturday @ 4 PM	Saturday @ 4 PM

Through My Fault

At each Mass (except sometimes on Sundays, especially during Easter season) the priest begins with words inviting us to call to mind our sins. This is a call to a realistic awareness that sin is the first chapter in the story of Christianity. We are sinners, always have been since Adam and Eve sinned. It is the story of our lives. **But it isn't the whole story**, for Jesus comes into the picture. According to the Creed which we pray at Sunday Mass,

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

Our Faith is about how **we were mired in sin and death, but Jesus has ended that power of sin and death. Salvation** is available. We need to **begin by admitting that we need it**. Lots of times, especially in the past generation or two, Catholics have tried to water that sin down. It isn't so much that we deny that our sin ever happened. We just like to say that "it wasn't that big a deal" or that "everyone is guilty of it" or that "God doesn't really mind: He is a sweetie and will just wink and ignore it." Perhaps this is why so many of us don't go to Confession. Instead, as we come to worship, the liturgy makes us face up to the facts: We have sinned. It is the cause of our grief. It is our fault.

The old sacramentary gave three formulas for the priest to use in calling us to that mindfulness of our sin, preceding them with the rubric: "in these or similar words." I used to be a "similar words" sort of celebrant. I am not ashamed of the calls to penitence I used to proclaim. But, like priests all over the English-speaking world, we have been assigned specific words, only these. It is not a very harsh discipline, but it is what a faithful Catholic priest will try to remember to do. Here are those introductory words:

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

I use the "brothers and sisters" address because congregations most always have both brothers and sisters. After a brief pause for silent recollection, the deacon or priest leads us all in praying one of several choices. The first option is the Confiteor.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have **greatly** sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
(*and, striking their breast, they say:*)

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

It has changed just a little bit, nothing very substantial, but it will put many of us off our pace by just that little bit. You could complain about that. Or you could notice the tiny improvement. It is a more accurate translation of the Latin in the original of the Roman Missal, so it is closer to the way the people of the Catholic Church in the other languages are praying at the same time as we are. And it says more bluntly, without the unnecessary softening

- that I have **greatly** sinned,
- that it was **through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault.**

That "greatly sinned" is a quote of the words of King David from three thousand years ago. When his people were being punished on account of his failure to trust in God, the king is reported to have prayed thus:

Then David said to God, "I have sinned greatly in doing this thing" (1 Chronicles 21:8).

The repeated "through my fault" is more than just a more accurate translation of the very ancient Latin original of this prayer. The repetition makes it more **difficult to weasel out of an admission that I really am at fault.**

The absolution by the priest follows:

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

To which the people reply:

Amen[!]

Then priest and people pray (singing when they can):

Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.

Those Greek words are translated into English as:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

But the very ancient tradition of the Catholic Church kept the words in Greek even when almost everything else was said or sung in Latin. Now that you know what they mean, you are equipped to tell your children what they mean, and there is no reason to resist singing or saying them along in the Greek. Unless it is hardness of heart that stands in the way. That we all need to work on.

I said "almost" all of the words were translated into Latin. But not all. There are some Hebrew words the Church never left behind. Like "Alleluia" (praise God) and "Amen" (so be it) and "Hosanna" (an exclamation of praise literally meaning, "Save, I pray", a cry for salvation, while at the same time a declaration of praise). These are all liturgical words, loaded with a meaning that is much richer than any translation can capture. Saying them just as they have been said by Christians of every time and culture, even before there was an English language, is a privilege, not a burden.

-Father Kessler

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