



The Feast of Pentecost  
at Lancaster St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary

JUNE 4, 2017

# St Bernadette Parish

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

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

# St Mary Parish

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

cover painting: **Pentecost**, a large depiction (465 x 778 cm) in oil on canvas, painted (1732) by Jean II Restout (1692-1768)

Musée du Louvre, Paris

## our parishes

FATHER THOMAS KESSLER (614) 634-0499  
pastor [wnthomaskessler@icloud.com](mailto:wnthomaskessler@icloud.com)

### AT ST BERNADETTE PARISH

<http://stbernadetteparish.net>

MARK SCARPITTI (740) 438-3970  
deacon [dcn.mark@frontier.com](mailto:dcn.mark@frontier.com)  
JEFF CARPENTER (740) 681-9918  
deacon [carpenter.277@osu.edu](mailto:carpenter.277@osu.edu)  
ANN ESSMAN (740) 653-9347  
pastoral minister [aessman001@att.net](mailto:aessman001@att.net)  
STEVE HUBER (740) 654-3137  
facilities coordinator [shuber57@yahoo.com](mailto:shuber57@yahoo.com)  
LIZ LATORRE (740) 243-1872  
liturgical music [lizlаторre@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us)  
JIM SCHMELZER (740) 215-3894  
maintenance chair  
TYNA FOX-SCHMELZER (614) 371-7702  
religious education

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

STEVE KARNES (740) 654-1893  
bookkeeper [businessmstbparish@yahoo.com](mailto:businessmstbparish@yahoo.com)  
KATHY KEHNAST (740) 654-1893  
pastoral coordinator [stbernparish@yahoo.com](mailto:stbernparish@yahoo.com)  
ANGIE & KENT KERNS (740) 654-2588  
religious education [kwkerns@gmail.com](mailto:kwkerns@gmail.com)  
JULIE & CHASE STALFORD (740) 808-7294  
youth ministry [maristellaspirt@gmail.com](mailto:maristellaspirt@gmail.com)

### AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

PAM ELTRINGHAM [peltring@cducation.org](mailto:peltring@cducation.org)  
principal  
BARB HUBER [bhuber@cducation.org](mailto:bhuber@cducation.org)  
secretary

Saint Bernadette School is located at  
1325 Wheeling Rd, (740) 654-3137  
Lancaster, OH 43130-8701  
[www.stbernadetteschool.com](http://www.stbernadetteschool.com)  
[stbernlan@cducation.org](mailto: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 Kehnst 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 with the Church

### at Mass today

Almighty ever-living God, who willed the Paschal Mystery to be encompassed as a sign in fifty days, grant that from out of the scattered nations the confusion of many tongues may be gathered by heavenly grace into one great confession of your name. 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 june : for national leaders

That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.

### God's word ... at sunday Mass

*Sunday, June 4,* Acts 2:1-11 Psalm 104  
*Pentecost Sunday* 1 Cor 12:3-13 **John 20:19-23**  
*Sunday, June 11,* Exodus 34:4-9 Daniel 3  
*The Most Holy Trinity* 2 Cor 13:11-13 **John 3:16-18**

#### ... during the week

*Mon, June 5* Tobit 1:3-2:8 Ps 112 **Mark 12: 1-12**  
*Tues, June 6* Tobit 2:9-14 Ps 112 **Mark 12:13-17**  
*Weds, June 7* Tobit 3:1-17 Is 25 **Mark 12:18-27**  
*Thurs, June 8* Tobit 6:10-8:9 Ps 128 **Mark 12: 28-34**  
*Fri, June 9* Tobit 11:5-17 Ps 146 **Mark 12: 35-37**  
*Sat, June 10* Tobit 12:1-20 Tb 13 **Mark 12:38-44**

### let us adore Him

Spend a **holy hour** with our Lord in the presence of his Blessed Sacrament in either of our parish churches. Or spend a **few holy minutes**. We try to keep both churches open all through the daylight hours. Anybody can come, any time. Perhaps you could.

### the feast days this week

June 5 Saint **Boniface**, bishop & martyr  
 June 6 Saint **Norbert**, bishop  
 June 9 Saint **Ephrem**, deacon & doctor of the church

## in both parishes

### YDisciple

St Mary and St Bernadette parishes are kicking off a **new season of youth ministry this summer**. All current YDisciple youth and newly confirmed teens—and in fact any high school-aged youth in those parishes—are invited to attend an **ice cream social and welcome at the Mary Good Center at St Bernadette** on Sunday, June 11, from 6:15-8:30 PM. In fact, they are urged to attend. What is YDisciple? It is an **amazing model of youth ministry for recently confirmed and high school students**. The mission is to lead **teens closer to Christ**. Each week there is something for them: teachings, socials, and issues. They learn about their faith, build long lasting spiritual friendships, and most importantly gain love for the Eucharist. We meet them where they are, and bring them back to the Way, Truth, and Love of Christ. For information, contact Milea Quaintance or Julie or Chase Stalford at (210) 781-0254.

### baptism preparation class

The next Baptism Preparation Class is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, at 7 PM in the Mary Good Center. Please call the office if you plan to attend.

### christian initiation

Keep praying all through the Easter season for the new members of the household of faith, **Ralph Mohler** and his son **Bryant** of Bremen St Mary, and **Jennifer Palmer** of St Bernadette. They were baptized and confirmed and received Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil at St Bernadette Parish at the Great Easter Vigil liturgy of the Lord's Resurrection. And pray for **Dick Usilton** of St Bernadette Parish who made a profession of his Catholic Faith, was confirmed, and received Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday. His sacramental reception was different because he was already a baptized Christian. Please welcome all of our new members. And please be thinking now about **who you are going to invite to join the Church in the coming year**.

### parish contributions:

what you gave in the collection in may

St Bernadette	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28	Totals
weekly	7,090	4,941	6,733	3,838	<b>22,602</b>
electronic funds transfer	2,548	156	156	156	<b>3,016</b>
educational support	701	35	125	105	<b>966</b>
<b>Total given to the parish</b>	<b>10,339</b>	<b>5,132</b>	<b>7,014</b>	<b>4,099</b>	<b>26,584</b>
CCC	25	0	263	15	<b>303</b>
Rice Bowl	84	26	0	10	<b>120</b>
<b>Total sent beyond the parish</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>423</b>
Bremen St Mary	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28	Totals
weekly	4,245	2,139	1,308	1,087	<b>8,779</b>
<b>Total given to the parish</b>	<b>4,245</b>	<b>2,139</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>1,087</b>	<b>8,779</b>
CCC	25	0	40	20	<b>85</b>
Rice Bowl	31	10	0	0	<b>41</b>
St Vincent de Paul	624	125	120	75	<b>944</b>
<b>Total sent beyond the parish</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>1,070</b>

### baby bottles

Participate in the PDHC's **Baby Bottle Campaign** by collecting your loose change **from Mother's Day to Father's Day** to help local parents and would-be parents in need. Spare change from baby bottles goes a long way to continue offering free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, material assistance and life-affirming programs to strengthen families. Grab a bottle and bring it back on Father's Day. Let us give thanks to our father and mother for choosing life and help a local family do the same.

## strengthening the church at home

Today we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal collection. Today over 40 percent of dioceses in the US are considered home missions because they are unable to fund essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. Information can be found at [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

## take a fresh look at your marriage

Treat yourselves to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and enrich your lives together. Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones—and focus only on each other. The next weekend is Sept 15-17 in central Ohio. For information or to apply, contact Paul & Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www.wmcecolumbus.org](http://www.wmcecolumbus.org).

## envelopes for youth

Children and youth have *a responsibility to support the Church*. Most of them don't have access to much money (or do they?), so their contributions are necessarily small. But this is the time to teach them their responsibility. Contribution envelopes are ready to be picked up in the school vestibule at St Bernadette and the main entry vestibule of St Mary.

## vacation church school

St Mary's Vacation Church School happens this summer at Schmelzer's Grove on the evenings of June 26-30. Catholic children from both parishes are invited, no make that urged, to attend. And so are any of their friends in other parishes. Anyone interested in helping should contact Angie Kerns at (740) 654-2588.

## at st bernadette parish

### a new teacher for st bernadette school

St. Bernadette School is accepting resumes for a **third-grade** teaching position, to begin the 2017-2018 school year. The candidate must

- be a practicing Catholic, well versed in the Catholic Faith;
- hold an appropriate Ohio teaching license (1-8, K-8, K-3; professional, provisional, permanent, or resident educator) or be eligible to obtain one by Aug 2017;
- have current BCI&I and FBI background checks;
- have attended or be willing to attend a VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Safe Environment seminar;
- completed the online teaching application for the Diocese of Columbus.

Contact Principal Pam Eltringham by e-mailing resume and letter of interest to [peltring@ceducation.org](mailto:peltring@ceducation.org).

### Mass intentions at st bernadette

Monday, June 5 8:20 AM Jo Ella Kiphen  
 Wednesday, June 7 8:20 AM Chuck Beiter  
 Thursday, June 8 7 PM Emma Aaron  
 Friday, June 9 8:20 AM Showman & Spizzirri families

The Church requires the pastor to offer Sunday Mass for good of the people of the parish.

### ministry at Mass at st bernadette

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion		
<b>Saturday, 4:00 PM</b>	Brad Rider	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Joyce Guenther Lee Guinan	Jim & Becky Kuhn	Denise McGuire Shelia Taylor
<b>Sunday, 11:00 AM</b>	Terry Carpenter	Ashlyn & Brennan Quaintance, Daniel Turner	Jim & Rita Merk	Teresa Scarpitti David Shonk	Becky Wickham Amy Woo
Monday, 8:20 AM	David Shonk	Becca Fuller, Morgan Cox	Patricia Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast	
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Brianna Hilyard, Kyndra Nagle	Angie Christy	Mary Jane Vajen	
Thursday, 6:00 PM	Kathy Kehnast	volunteers	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan	
Friday, 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Sarah Woo, Olivia Reynolds	Jim & Rita Merk		
<b>Saturday, 4:00 PM</b>	Sandy Landefeld	Mallory, Mason & Mitchell Ortiz	Bob & Angie Christy	Susan Garrett Marguerite Grimm	Brad Rider Craig Shaw
<b>next Sunday, 11 AM</b>	Dennis Forquer	Collin & Emma McCrady, Diana Woo	Terry Carpenter Pat Dreyer	Pat Gins Nancy Griffith	John & Teresa Hartig

## at st mary parish

### summer square dances

Summer means square dancing at Schmelzer's Grove. Mark your calendars on the Sunday evenings of June 11, July 9, and Aug 13 from 7-9:30 PM. Admission is \$4 per person.

### st vincent de paul at bremen

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Bremen takes up a **collection after Mass on the first Sunday** of every month. **New members** are always welcome. Call Angi Skinner at (740) 438-0027.

### Mass intention at st mary

Tuesday morning Mass will be celebrated for Marie Young

### sunday at Mass at bremen st mary

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
<b>Sunday 8:30 AM</b>	Jeanne Schmelzer	Brooke Holt, Jillian Wilkinson	Tyna Schmelzer-Fox, Joe & Cathy Young	Maurice Schmelzer family	Joe Young
<b>next Sunday</b>	Barb Van Fossen-Cook	Reagan Conrad Alex Schmelzer	Neil Boch, Wyatt Borah, Barb VanFossen-Cook	John Schoenlaub family	Damian Schmelzer

## in the deanery

### deanery Corpus Christi celebration

at bremen st mary

A deanery-wide Corpus Christi celebration will be held on the feast of Corpus Christi, Sunday, June 18, from 1-4 PM at **St Mary Church, Bremen**. The deacons of the deanery and St Mary Parish invite everyone to attend this celebration of the most generous gift God has given to his Church. The program is simple: exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, readings and reflections, with a Eucharistic procession, rosary, and Benediction. Please be sure to pray with us for some or all of that Sunday afternoon.

### lay people meet religious life

Do you desire a stronger sense of community and prayer? Do you find yourself asking how you can develop **more of a consistent quiet time with God**? Can you have more of a monastic way of life and keep your day job? What is **the difference between a lay Franciscan, Benedictine, Dominican, Cistercian and Carmelite** anyway? **How does God desire you and your family to order your lives**? Come and **learn about the opportunities** to join lay associates and oblates from the Columbus and Lancaster area. Discover if God may be drawing you to him through a deeper connection with one of these lay orders. This presentation will be held from 7-9 PM on Wednesday, June 21, at the Spirit Center of St Mary Parish in Lancaster. Refreshments will be provided. Contact Lisa for information at [lmreshad@gmail.com](mailto:lmreshad@gmail.com).

### irish alumni golf

**Alumni of St Mary, Bishop Fenwick and Fisher Catholic High Schools** will play golf at **Pleasant Valley Golf Course**, Coonpath Rd, on Saturday, June 10, at 9 AM. Cost is \$150 per team, with a 3-player scramble format. Send your check, payable to **A One Events**, to: A One Events, Box 961, Lancaster, OH 43130. Be sure to include player names, class year, email or phone. For information contact Mike Wolshire at (740) 687-0055 or [mike@miller-lewis.com](mailto:mike@miller-lewis.com).

## in the diocese of columbus

### project DAWN

It is no secret that there has been an overwhelming surge in opiate overdoses and fatalities within our communities. Mount Carmel Outreach and the Mount Carmel Mobile Medical Coach have joined forces with Project **DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone)**, a community-based overdose education and Narcan (naloxone) distribution program. The Project DAWN program provides Narcan kits free-of-charge to those without health insurance and limited financial means. Narcan is a safe medication that can reverse an overdose caused by prescription pain medication or heroin and save lives. For information, call (614) 546-4200.

### face forward

Developed for the **Vocations Office** of the Columbus Diocese, Face Forward app contains valuable information for Catholics right at their fingertips. It 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**. Face Forward give young folks something meaningful to read when they power up. Discerning 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 each 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 about what God is calling them to do**. 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](mailto:anne.harkin@mj2marketing.com).

### marriage preparation volunteers

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](mailto:khall@columbuscatholic.org) or (614) 241-2560.

### bulletin deadline

**Bulletin notices** must be to the parish office by 9 AM on the Friday that is one week prior to the Sunday you wish your notice to appear. For example, bulletin notices for the June 18 bulletin are due by 9 am on Friday, June 9.

**Mass announcements** (when these are really necessary) must be given to the parish office by 9 AM on Friday.

### diocesan senior citizens celebration

On Tuesday, June 6, **senior citizens will be honored** at St Joan of Arc Church in Powell. Bishop Campbell will celebrate Mass at 10:30 AM, and a luncheon will follow. Registration is \$10; send a check payable to the Office for Social Concerns, Catholic Diocese of Columbus, 197 E Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For information, call (614) 241-2540 or email [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org).

### jubilee of anniversaries 2017

This celebration will be Sunday, June 25, at St Matthew Parish in Gahanna. Bishop Campbell will celebrate Mass at 2:30 PM, and an informal reception will follow. Parishioners celebrating **significant wedding anniversaries** (25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, and any year thereafter) are invited. For questions, call the Marriage & Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560. RSVP by June 16.

## the bishop's annual appeal

### bishop's annual appeal 2017

**"LIVING THE GOSPEL IN FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY"**

The Bishop's Annual Appeal **has begun at St Bernadette and at St Mary**. It's time for us to do what we can to support the programs and ministries that benefit both our parishes and the wider community.

The Appeal **supports our parish schools of religion and the education of our future priests and deacons, and many families in need of our help**.

Your gift and your prayers will help to make this year's appeal a success. Here are the goals, the amounts we have been asked to raise:

Diocesan goal	\$ 6,500,000
St Mary Parish	\$ 12,443

St Bernadette Parish \$ 42,210

Every contribution counts; every dollar that we raise over the stated goal will be returned to our parishes to benefit our communities directly. Last year St Bernadette pledged slightly over and collected slightly under the goal. Bremen St Mary pledged well over the goal and has received the rebate of \$4,947 from the diocese. So we know we can do this if, after thoughtful consideration and prayer, every one of us gives according to our ability. We are blessed with much; let us remember the needs of others.

### baa prayer

Heavenly Father, we are always thankful for all you have given us. We are especially grateful

that you have sent to us your Son to be our Savior. That is the true Good News: that you love us and call us to yourself. Help us to live this Good News, this Gospel, in Faith, Hope, and Charity. Help us to respond generously to your love by sharing our material blessings for the good of all in our diocese. Send your Spirit to dwell in our hearts, so that all we do may give praise and honor to your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 <sup>st</sup> Saturday only 9 AM Mass				10 AM	9 AM
confessions	Sunday @ 8AM	Thursday @ 5:30 PM 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

## more things to think about

### why marriage matters

Marriage does matter. After all, **we're all in this together**. As members of society, we count on each other every day to keep our commitments. We feel more secure when we can depend on others. Although marriage has changed a great deal, the benefits of marriage endure. Social science research confirms that marriage is an important social good that brings a wide range of positive outcomes for adults and children alike. At [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org) you will discover that:

- On average, married people are better off financially.
- Marriage is associated with better health, sex, and safety for men and women.
- Children do better when they live with their own two married parents.

### attend Mass wherever you go

Times and locations of Masses in Catholic churches in the United States may be obtained from [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or contact the parish office for assistance. With a bit of planning you can fulfill your Sunday obligation when you are on the road.

### safe environment reminder

A complete copy of the **parish safe environment policies and procedures**, including the diocesan policies and guidelines for parish youth ministry is available by calling either parish office. All adults who have not previously attended a **Protecting God's Children training session sponsored by the diocese of Columbus** are urged to do so. A schedule of training sessions can be found at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

Articles on **sexual abuse prevention** are available at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). All adults are encouraged to access this website monthly and read the articles.

**Contact information for reporting suspected abuse of minors** is from the parish office.

### has your address changed?

Soon from our web site you will be able to inform the St Bernadette or Bremen St Mary parish office when your home, mailing, or email address changes. If you are a new parishioner to either parish you will be able to fill out a **New Parishioner Registration** form online. These are just few of the new features to be provided for your convenience.

### the act of contrition

O my GOD, I am heartily sorry for having offended thee, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell; but most of all because they offend thee, my God, who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

*Why not memorize it?*

### plan your family naturally

**Natural Family Planning (NFP)** uses modern scientific knowledge of fertility to allow married couples to safely and effectively achieve or postpone pregnancy. Today's NFP is up to 99% effective and completely natural. The benefits of NFP go beyond family planning; for articles and to read one couple's story visit [www.ForYourMarriage.org](http://www.ForYourMarriage.org). For information about NFP or to register for a diocesan NFP workshop, contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at 614/241-2560 or [FLOMailbox @ colsdio.org](mailto:FLOMailbox@colsdio.org).

# Let's stretch out this feast of Pentecost

The day of Pentecost is a good day for the Church to sing “**Happy Birthday**” to herself, to say “**Happy Anniversary**” to all the confirmed, to wish a “**Happy Feast Day**” to Catholic charismatics. It is also a day for our RCIA newcomers to breathe a sigh of relief: these brand new Catholics, who have now completed their program of learning and prayer as they have entered the Church at Easter and basked in their newfound participation in the sacramental life through the Easter season, can finally reclaim their Sunday evenings after a year of weekly gatherings. But I think there may be something more that we can make of this Pentecost day. And I think it just might mark the beginning of a big difference for a lot of parishioners in our two parishes. Maybe it would make a difference in your life. Here's the plan.

First, let's all of us make today **the first day of the new season of Christian Initiation**. The RCIA (Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults) marks by ritual several of the steps on the way to entry into the Church. I would like to declare today the day we begin praying for, thinking about, and talking to next year's Easter entrants into the Catholic Church. What better day than Pentecost, the day of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Church, to begin the coming year's project of Evangelization! This is the day the Spirit empowered the Church to go out to all the world and tell the Good News. Isn't a good day to begin prayer, thought, and talking with / to / about our friends and neighbors, getting them ready for the RCIA class that will begin in August?

Too shy for that kind of thing? Get over it! You are a Christian, aren't you? **This is what Christians do**. They tell the Good News. They do it respectfully, gently, intelligently. But they do it! If you care about a person, you care about her or his eternal salvation. God can save people outside of membership in our Church. But the Church, since she provides her members with the sacraments, is the way the Lord Jesus has given to us as the ordinary means for us to receive that salvation. To neglect to share that gift is to neglect something your friend or neighbor or spouse may need. Start today.

That's the first thing I want to say about this holy day. Then I want to invite you to consider taking part, not just in recruiting, but in **helping people in important, life-changing events in their life and in the life of the Church**. Here's how: **Become a mentor** for parents approaching baptism, fiancés approaching Matrimony, converts approaching Christian Initiation. By that I mean a charitable accompanying in sacramental awareness for these sacraments. This is for them—and can be for you!—the wonderful, rewarding, yet demanding adventures of

- entering into holy Matrimony,
- having a child baptized
- entering the Catholic church in Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist

Such accompaniment has been around for a long time. It is **enshrined in** the presence at these sacraments of **sponsors, godparents, witnesses**. In Baptism we choose godparents, at marriage we have the best man and the maid or matron of honor, in Christian initiation we have sponsors. They are often people of our own choosing, friends and relatives. Their main qualification is often that they are people special to the recipient of the sacraments involved, relatives or friends. For Baptism and for Initiation, the Church insists that the sponsors be baptized and practicing Christians, that for the Baptism of a child at least one godparent be a practicing Catholic. But there is no requirement that the person be very available. In extraordinary circumstances, these sponsors and witnesses can even be represented by proxy substitutes. That's fine; the parish doesn't need to impose the choice of these loved ones. And we are especially glad to see husbands or wives of the people joining the Church accompanying their loved ones through the RCIA process, taking the opportunity to grow together in the way of Faith, with both spouses enabled to be on the same page, as it were, in their Church life.

And yet, it would be helpful if, **beyond these sponsors, godparents, and witnesses**, there might be **accompaniment with and mentoring by laypersons prepared by and representative of the Catholic Church**. There ought to be a great benefit to having such a person accompanying you when you are preparing to enter the Church, or having an experienced married couple who have reflected deeply and prayerfully on the sacrament of Matrimony when you are preparing for marriage yourself, or on Christian parenting when you are facing the arrival of a new baby Christian.

Mentors could be **helpful** for each of these sacraments (perhaps with some of the other sacraments as well, but let's get started with these!), **in the time of preparation and in the early days of experiencing the new circumstances** of the recent recipient(s) of the sacrament(s). Lay mentors could do a good work, a kind of spiritual work of mercy, by accompanying the person receiving the sacrament on a part of the spiritual journey of the sacramental life, by being around, being a sounding board for what the person is going through, answering questions. I had mentors when I was a new priest, when I was new graduate student. They can provide an important kind of help.

And **for sacramental mentors** there could be some **advantages** too. They could profit by the **opportunity to learn**—and relearn—**the sacramental character of our Faith** and of its grace-bearing visitation into our lives.

Let me know if you would try to make yourself available to come along to the adventure of folks who will join the Church next year. I really believe you will be glad you did.

— *Father Kessler*

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