



Saint Francis of Assisi Receiving the Stigmata

The beloved saint is remembered with a feast on Wednesday, October 4. He was born into the new life of heaven on October 3, 1226

The 26th Sunday of the Year **at Lancaster St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary**

October 1, 2017

St Bernadette Parish.

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

stbernadetteparish.net

cover picture: **Saint Francis of Assisi Receiving the Stigmata** a painting (1430-1432) attributed to Jan van Eyck (c. 1395–1441)

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Stigmata are the body marks, sores, or sensations of pain in locations corresponding to the crucifixion wounds of Jesus on his hands, wrists, and feet. The term originates from Saint Paul's words in his Epistle to the Galatians, "I bear on my body the marks of Jesus." Stigmata is the plural of the Greek word stigma, meaning a mark or brand such as might have been used for identification of an animal or slave.



St Mary Parish.

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

our parishes

Father Thomas Kessler (614) 634-0499 wthomaskessler@icloud.com
pastor

at St Bernadette Parish

Jeff Carpenter (740) 681-9918 carpenter.277@osu.edu
deacon

Mark Scarpitti (740) 438-3970 dcn.mark@frontier.com
deacon

Ann Essman (740) 653-9347 aessman001@att.net
pastoral minister

Steve Huber (740) 654-3137 shuber57@yahoo.com
facilities coordinator

Angie & Kent Kerns (740) 654-2588 kwkerns@gmail.com
religious education

Liz Latorre (740) 243-1872 lizlatorre@gmail.com
liturgical music

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

<http://stbernadetteparish.net>

at Bremen St Mary Parish

Ben Factor b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us
liturgical music

Sarah Borah sborah920@gmail.com

The St Mary Parish office is at the church vestibule.

Hours are 9-11 AM, Tuesdays.

602 Marietta St,
Bremen, OH 43107(740) 569-7929

at both parishes

Stephen Karnes (740) 654-1893 stbernbook@gmail.com
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Julie & Chase Stafford (740) 808-7294 maristellaspirti@gmail.com
youth ministry

Saint Bernadette School

Pam Eltringham (740) 654-3137 peltring@cdeeducation.org
principal

Barb Huber (740) 654-3137 bhuber@cdeeducation.org
secretary

Saint Bernadette School is located at

1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701

stberlan@cdeeducation.org.

www.stbernadetteschool.com

sacramental life

Baptism

To have a child baptized, you must register and attend a class as a couple (unless attendance just isn't possible, in which case some discussion with Kathy Kehnast will be necessary). Sessions are held quarterly for both parishes. Try to attend before the child is born. Next session is tentatively planned for October 19. If you are expecting or have a new born or somehow have somehow haven't gotten around to have an older child baptized, call Kathy to make plans.

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.

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

We 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."

We bring Penance, Anointing, and Holy Communion to 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 this Sunday the church prays :

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

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.

in october the pope prays

that all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.

we listen to God's word and honor his saints

Sunday, Oct 1, Ezekiel 18:25-28 Psalm 25
26th Sunday Philippians 2:1-11 **Matthew 21:28-32**

| | | | | |
|--------|-------|--|-----------|----------------|
| Mon, | Oct 2 | Zechariah 8:1-8 | Psalm 102 | Matthew 8:1-10 |
| | | The Holy Guardian Angels | | |
| Tues, | Oct 3 | Zechariah 8:20-23 | Psalm 87 | Luke 9:51-56 |
| Weds, | Oct 4 | Nehemiah 2:1-8 | Psalm 137 | Luke 9:57-62 |
| | | Saint Francis of Assisi | | |
| Thurs, | Oct 5 | Nehemiah 8:1-12 | Psalm 19 | Luke 10:1-12 |
| | | Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, priest | | |
| Fri, | Oct 6 | Baruch 1:15-22 | Psalm 79 | Luke 10:13-16 |
| | | Saint Bruno, priest; Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, virgin | | |
| Sat, | Oct 7 | Baruch 4:5-29 | Psalm 69 | Luke 10:17-24 |
| | | Our Lady of the Rosary | | |

Sunday, Oct 8, Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80
27th Sunday Philippians 4:6-9 **Matthew 21:33-43**

first friday at fisher catholic

The priests of our deanery have agreed to provide a **Mass at Fisher Catholic High School** but **open to the wider community**, on **each First Friday** after school at 2:40 PM. The next First Friday Mass at Fisher is this Friday, Oct 6.

(We will attempt to have Mass on the other Fridays, too, when school is in session. Some of the details need to be ironed out before we can reliably announce Mass on these other Fridays.)

Since the time of St Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), devotion to the Sacred Heart has been linked to **monthly confession in the sacrament of Penance and attendance at Mass and reception of Holy Communion on the First Friday** of each month for nine consecutive months. Not a day of obligation, just a voluntary, special involvement with **the wonderful sacraments of the mercy which overflows from the unquenchable Heart of Jesus**. Care to join us?

Mass intentions this week

| | | | | |
|------------|-------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Monday, | Oct 2 | 8:20 AM | Peter Nguyen | at St Bernadette |
| Tuesday, | Oct 3 | 8:20 AM | David Stretton | at Bremen St Mary |
| Wednesday, | Oct 4 | 8:20 AM | John & Ann Muetzel | at St Bernadette |
| Thursday, | Oct 5 | 6 PM | Chuck Beiter | at St Bernadette |
| Friday, | Oct 6 | 8:20 AM | Jean Monaghan | at St Bernadette |
| Saturday, | Oct 7 | 9 AM | Dorothy Scanlan | at St Bernadette |

at both our parishes

hurricane irma collection

This year's hurricane season continues to be more dangerous than is typical. Most recently, **Hurricane Irma has devastated significant parts of the Caribbean and the southeastern US**. The road to recovery and the rebuilding of communities will be long. Our brothers and sisters, especially in the Diocese of St Thomas in the Virgin Islands, need our help. Once again, realizing that this call comes on the heels of the emergency collection for Hurricane Harvey, Bishop Campbell, along with the other American bishops in their dioceses, is asking us to respond to the victims of Hurricane Irma in the spirit of charity. We will take up this special collection **today**.

And yet again we will postpone the monthly collection at the door for St Vincent DePaul Society in Bremen until the following week. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

parish contributions ...

what you gave in the collection in September

| St Bernadette | Sept 3 | Sept 10 | Sept 17 | Sept 24 | Totals |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| weekly | 6,202 | 7,576 | 5,603 | 4,484 | 23,865 |
| electronic funds transfer | 2,664 | 176 | 176 | 176 | 3,192 |
| Sandwich Saturday | 0 | 45 | 90 | 0 | 135 |
| educational support | 243 | 466 | 120 | 410 | 1,239 |
| Total given to the parish | 9,109 | 8,263 | 5,989 | 5,070 | 28,431 |
| Hurricane Relief | 3,016 | 550 | 505 | 0 | 4,071 |
| Total sent beyond the parish | 3,016 | 550 | 505 | 0 | 4,071 |
| Bremen St Mary | Sept 3 | Sept 10 | Sept 17 | Sept 24 | Totals |
| weekly | 1,536 | 5,309 | 1,109 | 736 | 8,690 |
| Total given to the parish | 1,536 | 5,309 | 1,109 | 736 | 8,690 |
| Hurricane Relief | 647 | 70 | 50 | 0 | 767 |
| St Vincent de Paul | 207 | 678 | 20 | 100 | 1,005 |
| Total sent beyond the parish | 854 | 748 | 70 | 100 | 1,772 |

representation

The pastor is requested to appoint

- two parishioners from each parish to represent their parish on the Fairfield / Hocking / Pickaway County **deanery pastoral council (DPC)**

The DPC meets **bi-monthly** on a Monday evening for about an hour at a different parish each meeting. Parishioners with some experience on parish pastoral council make especially good representatives because they can share and work together on concerns common to all of the parish communities.

He is on the lookout for St Bernadette parishioners to serve on the

- Lancaster St Mary School Advisory Board** and
- Fisher Catholic High School Advisory Board**.

The school boards each meet **monthly** in the evening during the school year. They serve to keep communications happening between their own parish and the Catholic schools.

Each of these reps is a volunteer appointed by the pastor for a fixed term. A school advisory board member need not be a parent or an alum of the school concerned. Each can help keep the pastor and the corresponding councils in our own parishes in the loop. Several of the positions are already staffed, but we always need a “strong bench” of people to help. Please call to notify Fr Kessler of your interest.

at bremen st mary parish

october, month of the holy rosary

We'll pray the rosary in October at 8 AM on Sundays, before Mass at St Mary in Bremen.

ladies' brunch

All women of St Mary Parish in Bremen are invited to a Ladies' Brunch on Saturday, Oct 7, at 10 AM in the **Calvary United Methodist Church** basement. (You could go right after the 9 AM First Saturday Mass at St Bernadette). This brunch is hosted by the United Methodist Women Mission Group. RSVP to Vickie Winkelman at (740) 654-3969 if you are able to attend.

parish school of religion

Bremen St Mary PSR has begun! And it meets each Sunday at 9:30 AM. Registration can still be completed.

Just a reminder: Catholic parents have a solemn moral duty to see that their children are **properly and completely instructed** in the Catholic Faith. And they have a duty to see that their children attend **every week** (barring health or weather deterrents). Children will find getting to know Jesus and his Church to be an irreplaceable and joy-filled part of their upbringing.

Contact Sarah Borah with any questions at (740) 974-5925.

ministry at Mass at st mary

| 8:30 AM Sunday Mass | lector | servers | extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion | gifts | sacristan / usher |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Oct 1 | Joe Young | Caden & Cody Fyffe | Neil Boch, Debbie Schmelzer, Cathy Young | Nick Schmelzer family | Joe Young |
| Oct 8 | Susan Foltz | Carly Kunkler, Sydnee Rogers | Susan Foltz, Leo Kunkler Sr, Angi Skinner | Leo Kunkler Sr family | Damian Schmelzer |

at st bernadette parish

youth choir

The **Saint Cecilia Society** (our parish youth choir) will begin its seventh season on Sunday, Nov 5, at 6 PM in the church. All parish students in grades 2-8 (public, parochial, or home school) are invited to join. SCS members in grades 4-8 are also invited to be members of the **Handbell Ensemble**, which meets Sunday evenings at 7 PM, immediately after the full SCS meeting. The Handbell Ensemble will have a special workshop on Sunday, Oct 29, from 6:30-8 PM in the school meeting room. Mrs Latorre is happy to answer questions and provide registration materials. See her after Mass or call or text her at (740) 243-1872.

adult choir

St Augustine once said that, “**he who sings prays twice**”. The Saint Bernadette Adult Choir will begin practicing for the new church year on Wednesday, Oct 18, 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 would love to welcome some new members into our family. Might membership in the choir be an opportunity for you to get more involved in the parish and grow in your faith? Contact Liz Latorre after Mass or call or text her at (740) 243-1872 if you have any questions.

jillian's dinner

On Saturday, Oct 21, St Bernadette Parish will host **Jillian's Dinner**. This wonderful annual event raises money to assist a family from our area who has suffered catastrophic illness, the loss of a loved one, or some such major adversity. A raffle is held during the dinner to generate even more funds to help the family. If you have items to donate, bring them to the St Bernadette parish office by Oct 13.

friends forever

Join the **Friends Forever** gathering on Thursday, Oct 19, at 11:30 AM at Scrambler Marie's. Contact Ann Essman at (740) 654-1893 for information.

ministry at Mass at st bernadette

| | lector | servers | extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--|---|--|
| Saturday, 4:00 PM | Teresa Scarpitti | Carly Matson, Diana & Sarah Woo | Rosalie DeFillippo Joyce Guenther Kathy Kehnast | Denise McGuire Kathy Wagner Amy Woo |
| Sunday, Oct 1 11:00 AM | Patrick Gins | Collin & Emma McCrady, Caroline Messerly | Teresa Carpenter Nancy Griffith Ben Peters | Jean Robertson Anna Seigny Becky Wickham |
| Monday, 8:20 AM | Mary J Vajen | Hyde O'Rielley Olivia Reynolds | Patricia Dreyer | Kathy Kehnast |
| Wednesday, 8:20 AM | Bob Christy | Isabelle Lazar Daschel Neighbor | Angie Christy | Mary Jane Vajen |
| Thursday, 6:00 PM | Kathy Kehnast | Morgan Cox Amelia Robertson | Lee Guinan | Paul Lonergan |
| Friday, 8:20 AM | Jim Merk | Silus Hopkins Kyndra Nagle | Jim & Rita Merk | |
| Saturday, 9 AM | Kara Tencza | Jack Tencza | Jim & Rita Merk | |
| Saturday, 4:00 PM | Becky Kuhn | Kendall Cox, Becca Fuller, Brianna Hilyard | Susan Garrett Marguerite Grimm Lee Guinan | Jim Kuhn Brad Rider Mickey Steyaert |
| Sunday, Oct 8, 11:00 AM | Jim Merk | Abby, Mary, & Sam Frazier | Pat Dreyer Pat Gins John & Teresa Hartig | Rita Merk Larry Sanford |

sandwich saturday

School has started and the students are ready to begin serving the community by participating in the “Sandwich Saturday” program. This is a service project where students show discipleship by making sandwiches for Foundation Dinners, usually on the last Thursday of each month. Donations are greatly appreciated and can be made through the school or parish office. Please contact the school office for information at (740) 654-3137.

parish family meals

Each month in the coming year we will have a Parish Family Dinner at St Bernadette, right after a Sunday Mass. Every other month it will be on Sunday at noon; on the alternate months it will be on Saturday at 5 PM. Here is the schedule:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| Sunday, Oct 22 | @ noon | Saturday, Nov 18 | @ 5 PM |
| Sunday, Dec 3 | @ noon | Saturday, Jan 13 | @ 5 PM |
| Sunday, Feb 18 | @ noon | Saturday, Mar 17 | @ 5 PM |
| Sunday, Apr 15 | @ noon | Saturday, May 19 | @ 5 PM |
| Sunday, June 24 | @ noon | Saturday, July ?? | @ 5 PM |

Save these dates. Put them on your calendar. Schedule around them.

here and there

angels nurture & disciple

“When I found out I was pregnant,
I felt alone, like I didn’t have anyone.”

These honest and heartbreaking words came from a single mother who, at one time, considered having an abortion due to awful fear and uncertainty that came with an unplanned pregnancy. **Angels Nurture & Disciple (AND)** emerged from this sobering reality that many women who become pregnant feel alone and scared. AND reaches out to single mothers to provide emotional support and spiritual guidance in the form of a **Guardian Angel** (a mentor) at the most critical time in a woman’s life. Currently, AND has more single mothers in need than Guardian Angels to offer support and guidance. **They need your help.** Will you prayerfully consider the following roles?

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| guardian angel | baby shower host |
| testimony speaker | meal provider |
| angel assistance | transporter. |

Visit angelsAND.org, or contact Gina @ angelsAND.org.

Irish4Life observes respect life month a life chain

Irish4Life will participate in a Life Chain on Sunday, Oct 1, for Respect Life month. Meet at Miller Pool parking lot in Lancaster at 12:45 PM to join them in praying for an end to the culture of death.

some pancakes

Irish 4Life will also host a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Oct 8, at Fisher Catholic High School. They invite you to come, enjoy breakfast and good company. And they hope you will make a contribution for their travel fund, for they are raising money to travel on pilgrimage to Washington for the National Right to Life Day.

40 days for life

The 40-day vigil will happen from Sept 27 to Nov 5. Faithful participants pray that it will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in America. This **peaceful prayer vigil** takes 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 www.40daysforlife.com/columbus.

in the diocese of columbus

from the chair

“From the Chair with Bishop Campbell” will air on Tuesday, Oct 3, from 5 PM to 6 PM on St Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820. **The Bishop will take your questions** during his live monthly call in show. Call St Gabriel Catholic Radio at (614) 459-4820 to ask your question about the Catholic Faith and growing in holiness.

get to know the marthas

Plan to enjoy wine, cheese, and friendship as you **learn about the St Martha Giving Circle** (“the Marthas”) and plan for the future. The featured speaker is Elizabeth Ficocelli, host of “Answering the Call” on St Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820. This happens on Wednesday, Oct 4, at 5 PM at The Catholic Foundation in Columbus. RSVP to Megan Polk at mpolk@catholic-foundation.org or (614) 443-8893.

capture my heart again

Columbus Catholic Renewal sponsors this women’s retreat on Oct 20-22 at St Therese Retreat Center directed by Caroline Gambale-Dirkes, who uses **lively interaction with women to deepen their relationship with Jesus**. Mass will be celebrated each day. Cost is \$150 for lodging and meals, \$97 for commuter with meals, and \$55 for commuter without meals. For information visit www.crcolumbus.org or call Linda at (614) 582-1721.

just can’t go to fatima this year, but ...

Come to the **Fatima Fest Pilgrimage** and experience some of the devotions, sights, and sounds of Fatima **right here in Ohio!** The Fatima Fest Pilgrimage—a 100th anniversary celebration designed for families—will be held Oct 13-15 at Catholic Familyland, in Bloomingdale, OH. Learn more about the Fatima message from good speakers, enjoy a concert by PJ Anderson, and be refreshed by the sacraments. Visit AFC.org/FatimaFestPilgrimage for details.

marian dinner

The Columbus diocese annual Marian Dinner happens Wednesday, Oct 11, at 6 PM, at the St Andrew Bryce Eck Center. Featured speakers are Bishop Frederick Campbell and Sister Maria Ecclesiae Kline, HSMCJ. Representatives from religious communities serving our diocese will attend. All **women interested in religious vocations** are invited to come and learn more about this life of devotion and service. Call (614) 224-2251 for information or to register.

Sacred Heart congress

The 6th annual **Sacred Heart Congress** will be Saturday, Oct 14, at Christ the King Church in Columbus from 8 AM to 1:15 PM. It features Fr John Paul Mary, director of EWTN pilgrimages; Sr Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz OP, vocations director of Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; and Fr Stash Dailey, spiritual director of Sacred Heart Columbus and administrator of Holy Family Parish. The day includes talks, recitation of the rosary, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and a concluding Mass at noon. A free-will offering will be taken. For information and registration visit www.sacredheartcongresscolumbus.org.

holy land pilgrimage

Have you considered adding a **new dimension of understanding regarding your Christian history and the life of Jesus?** Father Nic Ventura, a recent Fisher Catholic High School alum and Lancaster native, invites you to join him on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Travelers will experience the places where Jesus walked, lived, taught, and worked miracles. Mass will be celebrated daily at various holy sites. Dates for this spiritual journey are next Feb 21-Mar 2, 20. Cost is \$3179 per person, with breakfast, dinner, fees, and tips included. For information contact Aimee Walton at frnicpilgrimage@gmail.com or (740) 225-6136.

the beauty of the feminine

The **Beauty of the Feminine Catholic Women’s Conference** will happen Saturday, Oct 7, from 8 AM to 3 PM at St Thomas Aquinas in Zanesville. The theme is “**Anchored in Hope.**” For information visit www.thebeautyofthefeminine.weebly.com. Registration, which includes talks, breakfast, and lunch, and costs \$20 until Sept 30, or \$25 on the day of the event, call St Thomas at (740) 453-3301 or email thebeautyofthefeminine@gmail.com.



catholic men’s luncheon club

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club session will feature the **annual address by Bishop Frederick Campbell** on Friday, Oct 6, at St Patrick Church in downtown Columbus. Mass will be at 11:45 AM, followed by lunch and Bishop Campbell's talk until 1:15 PM. Reservations are not necessary. \$10 will cover the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend. This month's luncheon is sponsored by St Gabriel Catholic Radio AM820. For information on Catholic Men's Luncheon Club, visit www.catholicmensministry.com/cmcl or contact George Harvey, CMLC president at george.harvey@tvssohio.com.

family rosary day

The diocese of Columbus annual Family Rosary Day happens Sunday, Oct 8, at 3 PM, at St Joseph Cathedral. Bishop Campbell will preside and preach. This event demonstrates **our commitment to the Blessed Mother as a model for the Church's mission and life of worship**. All are welcome.

nearby confessions & weekday Mass

These times sometimes change, though, so be sure to call ahead!



| parish | confessions | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|---|
| <i>Bremen St Mary</i> | 8 AM Sunday | | 8:20 AM | | | | |
| <i>Lancaster St Bernadette</i> | 5:30 PM Thurs, 3 PM Sat; 8:30 AM on 1 st Sat | 8:20 AM | | 8:20 AM | 6 PM | 8:20 AM | on 1 st Saturdays @ 9 AM |
| <i>Lancaster St Mary</i> | 4 PM Saturday | 7 AM | 9 AM | 7 AM | 9 AM | | |
| <i>Lancaster St Mark</i> | 5:30 PM Saturday | 8 AM | 8 AM | 6 PM | 8 AM | 8 AM | |
| <i>Sugar Grove St Joseph</i> | ½ hour before Mass | VARIABLE | NOON | 7 PM | NOON | NOON | |
| <i>Circleville St Joseph</i> | 4 PM Saturday | 9 AM | 7 PM | 9 AM | | 9 AM | |
| <i>Logan St John</i> | 4 PM Saturday | 8 AM | 8 AM | 9 AM | | 8 AM | 9 AM |
| <i>Fisher Catholic HS</i> | on first Fridays @ 2 PM in chapel | | | | | | on 1 st Fridays @ 2:40 pm |

intercessory prayer list for the beginning of 2017

Please pray-for the sick and those in need of healing, especially:

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Angie Abel | Olivia Grace Dreyer | Isaiah Hurd | Fran Miller | Sandy Skat |
| Mark Amato | Cooper Echard | Chuck Huston | Rod Miller | Barb Smelzer |
| Nancy Bailey | Dylan Echard | Debbie Hyme-Bixler | Patty Mohler | Helen Smith |
| Sharon B | Rachel Echard | Becky Jewel | Gabriel Moore | Nicole Smith |
| Sr. Sharen Baldy | Barbara Egan | Jim Jewett | Mike Moore | Sue Smith |
| Luke Ball | Anthony Ellis | Leon Johnson | Daniel Morris | Mary Lee Snoko |
| Heather Baskin | Betty Estep | Mary Johnson | Louie Niemann | Tom Spires |
| Jolene Beatty | Brooke Evans | Theresa Junczewicz | Lynda O'Brien | Lleyton Stemble |
| Christen Beck | Adrienne Factor | DeAnn Kirkwood | Ava O'Dell | Deb Stinehelfer |
| Anthony Binetti | Bill Fisher | Greg Klopfer | George Palmer | David Stollenwerk |
| Tracie Binetti | Laura Fox Fonseca | Stacy Knight | Aubree Parsons | Jeff Stuyvesant |
| Barron Black | Mike Ford | Carol Knotts | Mary Rice-Patt | Jenny Sutherland |
| Rita Black | Meredith Frear | Tiffany Kohler | Zane Peters | Roger Tabbutt |
| Toni Blanchard | Regina Gallagher | Steven Kress | Janet Peterson | Clark Thurmond |
| Sharon Bloom | Christine Gentry | Kelly Lambert | Karen Phillips | Chad Thurkettle |
| Hayden Brothers | Agnes Gins | Samantha Lamp | Kate Prentice | Rose Trout |
| Marcie Brown | Belinda Grace | Edna Lee | Donna Roark | Allen Underwood |
| Kathleen Butler | Jim Griffith | Adrianne Leith | Bill Roark | Betty Underwood |
| Aaron Capretta | Marilyn Haag | Julia Lines | Tony Ross | Michelle Unger |
| Milissa Casto | Donte Hall | Nina Lombardo | David Roundhouse | Derek Upp |
| Tate Chancey | Becky Hams | Brian Mahon | Vivian Rowntree | Mary Jane Vajen |
| Mary Jane Cloose | Pat Hanna | Judy Mathias | Sam Runco | Robert Waits |
| Jeanne Corsi | Luke Hay | Larry Mattox | Keary Ryan | Bea Ward |
| Jennifer Craiglow | Timothy Heck | Susan McClellan | Mark S | Phil Weldon |
| Deacon Bob Crook | Julia Hedges | Dave McGraw | Brent Sanford | Elizabeth Wellington |
| Jim Darfus | Mark Hedges | Fred Menigat | Shirley Schambach | Matthew Whitehead |
| Pat Darfus | Jodi Hill | David Meyer | Les Schmelzer | Michael Whitehead |
| Denny Daugherty | Doug Hockman | Tommy Meyer | Loren Schmelzer | Scott Whitehead |
| Dolores DeFillippo | Paul Hockman | Elmer Miller | Matt Schmelzer | Sharon Willis |
| Barbara Difilippo | Ashlee Hunt | Margie Miller | Leon Sevigny | Rose Wilson |
| Joe Difilippo | Phyllis Hunt | Evelyn Miller | Kayla Shaw | Peter Yanuzzi |

Parishioners have also asked that we:

- pray for all the deceased, and for the comfort and consolation of their families
- pray for an increase in vocations
- pray for guidance for Pope Francis, Bishop Campbell, our pastor Father Kessler, and all our clergy and religious leaders,
- pray that Mary, the Holy Mother of God, will continue to care for our parish and lead us to her Son
- praise and give thanks to God for the gift of the Resurrection!

Please call the church office at 654-1893 or email stbernparish@yahoo.com to keep this list current. Thank you.

The Catholic Outlook on Halloween

(This is a reprint, with some adjustments, from an earlier bulletin essay. It is included this year because this is still an issue and because the way we celebrate our holidays affects the way we believe and the way we share our Faith.)

For a pastor who resists rushing the season of Christmas and Easter, I may be breaking my own rule by rushing into Halloween a month early. There is a reason: I have already seen yard decorations with a Halloween theme, decorations like plastic tomb stones in people's yards and skeletons hanging from trees, and ghosts dancing around the shrubbery. And, frankly, I hate to see that. There is still time to rescue it.

What? you may ask. Does the Catholic Church even have an attitude about Halloween? Why do they want to butt in on the way we entertain ourselves on a harmless secular semi-holiday?

Well, first off, **Halloween** isn't a secular holiday. It is **one of our Catholic holy days!** Or more precisely, it is the eve of a holy day. You probably already knew what my dictionary knows, that the word "Halloween," is a contraction of the words "All Hallow Even," which just means it is the evening before All Saints' Day, that it is "commonly celebrated by children who dress in costume and solicit candy or other treats door-to-door." My dictionary doesn't seem to know any more than that about why it is celebrated. Problems of space, I suppose. But we Catholics won't get the vital teaching of this holy day right if we don't understand what it is all about.

We should not surrender our Catholic heritage to a false interpretation. Our holy days of Christmas, St Valentine, St Patrick, Mardi Gras (among others) have all already been high-jacked and turned into something they didn't start as. But we can restore those days in our own lives and those of our families as days of religious observance. And we will be enriched by this restoring. The same goes for Halloween.

Halloween, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day (Oct 31 and Nov 1 and 2) are days Catholics have designated for focus on the afterlife.

That doesn't mean witches, ghosts, ghouls, or vandalism. It means **the four last things: death, judgment, heaven and hell.** We are often squeamish about death, afraid even to say the word. I googled "euphemisms for death" and found 96 phrases in the first entry. Some are meant to be humorous, some try to soften the reality of death. What they have in common is a natural desire to avoid thinking about a difficult subject. A kind of neo-pagan mythology gets around death by establishing a preposterous cartoonish picture.

But we Catholics have **a beautiful belief about death.** We die and our souls are removed from our bodies. Our bodies are reverently buried in a sacred place. (This is true whether our bodies are cremated or not. The Church now allows us to **cremate** bodies, but only on **the important condition** that the ashes be buried intact in a place sacred to the Christian community, and that we keep intact the teaching that the body—**this particular body—will be raised on the last day**, at the Last Judgment of the living and the dead.)

In the meantime, the soul is faced with the **particular judgment**: on the basis of how we have lived our lives we are definitively adjudged bound for heaven or for hell. There aren't ghosts roaming the earth worried about how their lives ended. There are instead bodies in the ground (or if the body is disrespected by the ignorant or by non-believers, left out of the ground, but with no real detriment to the soul's judgment at the moment of death and the body's final raising up at the last day). There are souls, saved or damned.

The soul that is damned is damned, and that is final. Damnation to **hell is very bad news.** But not a surprise to a person with a well-formed conscience. There are consequences to living an evil life. The Lord's revelation and the Church's proclamation of it in her teaching makes clear what consequences to expect. The damned have wrecked their own hope of arriving at what God wants to give them. They have written their own tragedy, have dammed themselves.

The soul that is saved is bound either for heaven immediately or for purgatory prior to entry, guaranteed entry, into heaven. **Purgatory** is not a scary place. It is a circumstance of putting **the finishing touches** on a person not yet ready to see God face to face, a person whose soul is free of mortal sin but who needs further cleaning up, freeing from the stain of venial sins. The condition of purgatory is a little like the condition of a person welcome to a person's home but in need of stopping on the porch to have the tar (or whatever) cleaned from his shoes before he is eligible (or even wants) to go through the front door. Whether the time spent there is brief or long depends on the seriousness of the cleanup that is needed. There is joy in knowing that the entry will happen, but sorrow in knowing that the preparation wasn't taken care of with the help of the sacraments before arrival. And the person receiving this purification can't do anything to help himself. **Those still living can assist that purgatorial cleanup** effort with our prayers to assist our loved ones, prayers which say to the Lord,

"Look not on their sins but on the Faith of your Church."

We enfold our deceased loved ones, who may have been flawed (we have no way to know the situation of any of the dead as they face the particular judgment), in our loving prayers. We entrust them to the mercy of God. We believe that God hears and answers our prayers.

But the Church's teaching about **the glory of heaven** is really glorious! Saint Paul has written that

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man,
what things God has prepared for them that love him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

This is what we were made for. We don't know the particulars, only that it is very good. It has to do with seeing God face to face, with being granted the beatific vision, with no further sorrows.

There is one additional thing to add. Saint Paul uses these riveting words:

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall all indeed rise again: we shall be changed.

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet:

for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall rise again incorruptible: and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption; and this mortal must put on immortality.

And when this mortal hath put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? Now the sting of death is sin: and the power of sin is the law.

But **thanks be to God, who hath given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.** *1 Corinthians 15:51-57*

That is what we Catholics believe about the afterlife. Is there any room in that for a phony Halloween afterlife?

— Father Kessler

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