



The Charity of St Martin of Tours

St Martin's feast day is Saturday, November 11

The 31st Sunday of the Year
at Lancaster St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary

November 5, 2017

St Bernadette Parish.

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

stbernadetteparish.net

St Mary Parish.

602 Marietta Street (740) 569 • 7738
BREMEN, OH 43107

cover picture: **The Charity of Saint Martin of Tours**

Martin (ca 316-397) was a soldier, the son of a high-ranking officer. He was born in what is now known as Hungary, but his father's military career and then his own took him to many postings around the Roman Empire in the days very soon after the end of the Roman persecution. As a young child (probably aged 10), this son of pagan parents became Christian, but postponed baptism. By 15 he was a soldier, and while in his teens he was stationed in the north of what we call France. There on a cold night a homeless beggar with very scanty clothes asked his help. He took his very fine soldier's cloak, cut it in half and gave one part to the beggar to help him keep warm (the scene depicted on the cover of today's bulletin). That same night Christ told him in a dream that a mere catechumen had clothed him. Martin understood that this was a realization of the Gospel words about "Whatever you did for the least of my brothers, that you did for me." He soon left the army, joined the Church, and dedicated himself to the service of Christ, eventually becoming a monk and then the bishop of the Roman Gallic city of Tours. He was known as a man generous to the poor, serious about the faithfulness of his teaching and very prayerful. He is a patron of soldiers, a most appropriate saint for the American observance of Veterans' Day.

our parishes.

Father Thomas Kessler (614) 634-0499 wmothomaskessler@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
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Ann Essman (740) 653-9347 aessman001@att.net
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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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Saint Bernadette School

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secretary

Saint Bernadette School is located at
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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 will be in January. If you are expecting or have a new born or somehow haven't gotten around to having an older child baptized, call Kathy to make plans now.

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 :

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. 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 November the pope prays

... that Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

we listen to God's word and honor his saints

Sunday, Nov 5,	Malachi 1:14-2:10	Psalm 131	
31st Sunday	1 Thessalonians 2:7-13	Matthew 23:1-12	
Mon, Nov 6	Romans 11:29-36	Psalm 69	Luke 14:12-14
Tues, Nov 7	Romans 12:5-16	Psalm 131	Luke 14:15-24
Weds, Nov 8	Romans 13:8-10	Psalm 112	Luke 14:25-33
Thurs, Nov 9	Ezekiel 47:1-12	Psalm 46	
	1 Corinthians 3:9-17		John 2:13-22
	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica		
Fri, Nov 10	Romans 15:14-21	Psalm 98	Luke 16:1-8
	Saint Leo the Great, pope & doctor of the Church		
Sat, Nov 11	Romans 16:3-27	Psalm 145	Luke 16:9-15
	Saint Martin of Tours, bishop, patron of soldiers		
Sunday, Nov 12,	Wisdom 6:12-16	Psalm 63	
32nd Sunday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13	

Mass intentions this week

Monday, Nov 6	8:20 AM	Showman & Spizzirri families	at St Bernadette
Tuesday, Nov 7	8:20 AM	Hugh Messerly	at Bremen St Mary
Wednesday, Nov 8	8:20 am	Paul Gallagher	at St Bernadette
Thursday, Nov 9	6 PM	John & Ann Muetzel	at St Bernadette
Friday, Nov 10	8:20 AM	Donna Abbott	at St Bernadette

at both parishes

new business manager

In June Steve Karnes, a resident of Laurelville near Hocking Hills and a parishioner at St Mark Parish, joined the staff of St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary Parishes as bookkeeper. It soon became apparent that he brings more than 40 years of experience in accounting, human resources, payroll, and information technology to the position. This long professional career makes him helpful in a wider range of business leadership. He has been helping us modernize and economize our purchasing procedures, our use of electronic media, our planning and development, etc. So it was decided, after consultation with the finance committees of both parishes, that his job should be re-dimensioned as **"business manager" for our parishes**. Contact Steve at the parish office at (740) 654-1893 or stbernbook @ gmail . com.

anointing the sick

We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick** at both parishes during Sunday Mass on Nov 18 and 19. You should be anointed if you are

- a Catholic, age 7 or older and
- in the state of grace and
- suffering serious health problems, like
 - chronic or dangerous diseases,
 - old age, or
 - the prospect of major surgery.

Determine before Mass begins if you will receive the sacrament, sit in the front row or at the end of the pew, and come to the altar when you are called (or notify an usher to ask the priest to come to your place in the pew if coming forward is difficult). Everybody else: Pray for our sick. Keep them in your prayers.

may they rest in peace

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

From St Mary Bremen:

George Foltz Richard Kessler

And from St Bernadette:

Robert Bell Louise Mathias Veral Kilbarger
Robert Benson Julia Lines David Butler
Diana Harris Jo Kiphen Joan Olson
Richard Schorr Josephine Hanaissian

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

We also remember friends who have served the Church in our community who have died recently:

- Sam Ritchey, who at different times served both Bremen St Mary and St Bernadette Parishes, as well as
- Phil Momburg, who directed religious education at St Mark.

friends forever

The next Friends Forever gathering happens on Thursday, Nov 16. Call Ann Essman at (740) 654-1893 for details.

cemetery Sunday and cemetery flowers

Cemetery Sunday is a time of prayer for our beloved dead. It will be observed this year with prayers offered at **Sacred Heart Cemetery** (near Bremen) **today, Nov 5, at 1 PM**. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will gather at the shelter at Schmelzer's Grove. All are invited—even if you don't have relatives or friends buried there, come and pray for all the faithful departed.

In both St Mary and Sacred Heart Cemeteries **artificial flowers**, including stone top arrangements, are permitted from Nov 1 until Mar 1. Thank you for your cooperation. Thank you for helping keep our cemeteries **places of respect and Resurrection faith**.

parish school of religion

At both St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary Parishes, PSR meets **each Sunday** at 9:30 AM. Catholic parents are reminded of their solemn moral duty to see that their children are properly and completely instructed in the Catholic Faith. They need to see that their **children attend regularly** (barring health or weather deterrents). Even if some weeks they are reluctant to attend, the children will find getting to know Jesus and his Church to be **an irreplaceable and joy-filled part of their upbringing**. And **parental firmness a blessing** that they may not acknowledge right away.

representatives

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 rep 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. They 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.

parish contributions

what you gave in the collection in October

St Bernadette	Oct 1	Oct 8	Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29	Totals
weekly	6,060	4,745	8,516	4,549	4,394	28,264
electronic funds transfer	2,664	176	176	176	176	3368
Sandwich Saturday	0	40	0	20	10	70
educational support	701	80	115	55	110	1,061
Total given to parish	9,425	5,041	8,807	4,800	4,690	32,763
Hurricane Relief	2,050	50	0	25	0	2,125
World Mission	10	0	45	451	35	541
Total sent beyond the parish	2,060	50	45	476	35	2,666

Bremen St Mary	Oct 1	Oct 8	Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29	Totals
weekly	4,948	1,546	1,304	1,109	1,179	10,086
Total given to parish	4,948	1,546	1,304	1,109	1,179	10,086
Hurricane Relief	812	20	50	0	0	882
World Mission	0	0	50	80	55	185
St Vincent de Paul	237	599	85	120	50	1,091
Total sent beyond the parish	1,049	619	185	200	105	2,158

at bremen st mary parish

men's night out

The next Men's Night Out happens on Wednesday, Nov 15, in the St Mary Bremen parish hall at 6:30 PM. Enjoy dinner and a talk. Call Jim Schmelzer at (740) 215-3894 for information.

st vincent de paul

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Bremen takes up a **collection after Mass today, as it does on the first Sunday** of each month. St Vincent always needs members. Call Angi Skinner at (740) 438-0027 if you can help.

ministry at Mass at st mary

8:30 AM Sunday Mass	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Nov 5	Barb VanFossen-Cook	Spencer Conrad Charles Schoenlaub	Neil Boch, Wyatt Borah, Barb VanFossen-Cook	Nick Schmelzer family	Jim Schmelzer
Nov 12	Karen Wolfe	Reagan Conrad Alex Schmelzer	Leo Kunkler Sr, Dismas Schmelzer, Karen Wolfe	John Schoenlaub family	Jim Schmelzer

christmas baskets

The Bremen Community Food Pantry is in need of **turkeys and cookies for Christmas** baskets for families. Drop off ...

- cookies** on Thursday, Dec 14, between noon and 6 PM and
- turkeys** on Saturday, Dec 16, at 8 AM at the Calvary United Methodist Church.
- bring **monetary donations** or **nonperishable food** items to Bremen St Mary Church.
- to make **other arrangements**, or if you can donate a turkey for the baskets, call Mary Shumaker at (740) 569-4796.

Baskets will be distributed on Saturday, Dec 16.

Mass attendance at st mary in october 2017

Oct 1	Oct 8	Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29	average
109	116	103	96	110	107

at st bernadette parish

advent family fun day

Begin the Advent Season with an Advent Family Fun Day on Sunday, Dec 3, from 12-2 PM in the St Bernadette parish hall. There will be seasonal crafts and cookie making, as well as an opportunity to purchase Advent Wreaths and seasonal books. It will include a **Parish Family Lunch** pot luck. Contact Kara Tencza at Kara . tencza @ gmail . com for information or to volunteer.

our school and our veterans day

This year, St Bernadette School will honor our servicemen and women, past and present, in two ways.

- We are collecting food, snacks, toiletries, and entertainment items for Christmas **care-packages** that will be shipped, through Blue Star Mothers, **to local men and women serving abroad**. Donations may be placed in the collection boxes through Nov 10 on the table in the school entry hall.
- On Friday, Nov 10, a **patriotic assembly in honor of Veterans' Day** happens at 9:30 AM in the parish hall. Veterans, family and friends are welcome to attend the assembly and enjoy songs, poems, and light refreshments. A wall of honor, displaying pictures of **veterans past and present**, will feature copies of photographs sent to school by Tuesday, Nov 7. Veterans planning to attend are asked to call the school office at (740) 654-3137. They are invited to wear their uniform or other apparel that proudly represents the branch of military in which they served.

Please pray for our troops, both veterans and currently serving!

k of c honors a veteran

St Bernadette parishioner Tom Dodds will be honored as Veteran of the Year by the Knights of Columbus on Tuesday, Nov 14, at the K of C Hall. All are invited to the dinner, which will cost just

\$8. Contact Jerry Azbell at (740) 687-3601 for information or reservations.

youth choir

The **Saint Cecilia Society** (our parish youth choir) begins its seventh season today, 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. 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 has begun practicing for the new church year on **Wednesdays at 7 PM** in the church. Our adult choir is both a vocal ensemble devoted to making beautiful music for the Lord and a small faith group within our parish family. We would love to welcome some new members into the group. 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](tel:7402431872) if you have any questions.

scholastic book fair

Let’s promote literacy in our school and community. Hundreds of children’s books, as well as religious books, adult best-sellers, and unique cookbooks, will be available for immediate purchase at the St Bernadette Scholastic Book Fair in the school library during the week of Nov 27-Dec 1, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 AM until 3:15 PM. The Book Fair will also be open before and after Vigil and Sunday Mass on Dec 2 and 3. Funds raised during this Book Fair will be used to **purchase new TVs and DVD players for our classrooms**, replacing our current televisions which are more than 20 years old. Any donation in lieu of book purchases will be gladly accepted in the school office.

ministry at Mass at st bernadette

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
Saturday, 4:00 PM	Tara Craaybeek	Clara & Susan Craaybeek, Eve Darfus	Joyce Guenther Lee Guinan Jim & Becky Kuhn	Denise McGuire Kathy Wagner
Sunday, Nov 5 11:00 AM	Dennis Forquer	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Nancy Griffith David Shonk Jim & Rita Merk	Anna Sevigny Teresa Scarpitti
Monday, 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Hyde O’Rielley Isabelle Lazar	Patricia Dreyer Kathy Kehnast	
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Daschel Neighbor Olivia Reynolds	Angie Christy Mary Jane Vajen	
Thursday, 6 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, 4:00 PM	Terry Carpenter	Mallory, Mason, & Mitchell Ortiz	Bob & Angie Christy Shelia Taylor Brad Rider	Kathy Kehnast Rosalie DeFillippo
Sunday, Nov 12, 11:00 AM	Sandy Landefeld	Avee & Drew Solt, Daniel Turner	John & Teresa Hartig Pat Dreyer Amy Woo	Becky Wickham Mary Jane Vajen

sandwich saturday

School has started and the students are serving our community by participating in the “Sandwich Saturday” program. This is a service project for students to live their discipleship by making **sandwiches for Foundation Dinners**, usually on the **last Thursday of each month**. The kids begin this service from an early age. Last month the kindergarten class provided the batch of sandwiches. Monetary donations, and donations of bread, lunch

meat and wrapped cheese slices are always welcome and can be made through the school or parish office. Contact the school office for information at (740) 654-3137.

kitchen clean up

Parishioners who prepared food for recent funerals or desserts for Jillian’s Dinner may now pick up their pans, dishes, and other food containers from a table in the school hallway. Thanks to all who donate their time and talent to our parish events.

Mass attendance at st bernadette in october

	Oct 1	Oct 8	Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29	averages
4 PM	167	160	188	182	153	170
11 AM	178	199	178	171	209	187
Totals	345	359	366	353	362	357

in the deanery

st mary poinsettia sale

The Lancaster St Mary Education Association is sponsoring a sale of poinsettias and holiday greenery to support tuition assistance. Orders are due by Friday, Nov 17, and payment and pick up will be Dec 1, from 3-6 PM or Saturday, Dec 2, from 10-noon in the St Mary School gym. Contact the school office or [llipp @ saintmarylanster . org](mailto:llipp@lancaster.org) for orders.

becoming a fisher catholic patron of the arts

Fisher Catholic will present the musical **Guys and Doll** on Mar 16 & 17. To raise funds for pre-production costs,

- Buffalo Wild Wings will donate 10% of your food purchases on Wednesday, Nov 8, from 5-9 pm, if you go to [www . fishercatholic . org](http://www.fishercatholic.org) to download the 'Eat Wings' ticket and present a ticket or have it on your phone
- Chipotle will donate 50% of your food costs on Wednesday, Nov 29, from 4-8 pm, if you mention Fisher Catholic when you order.

For information or tickets, or to become a patron of the arts, contact Mary Walsh at [mwalsh @ cdeducation . org](mailto:mwalsh@cdeducation.org).

here and there

vocation awareness

Vocation doesn’t just mean job or career or profession. It means calling. When there is a calling, someone is calling someone. **It’s God calling. And he is calling each of us**, his people.

Did you know that in our country, there are 20,000 fewer priests and 130,000 fewer religious sisters than there were 50 years ago? At the same time, the Catholic population has continued to grow steadily. Many factors have contributed to the decline: growing secularism, a lengthened period of adolescence, attitudes about celibacy, etc.

Pray that young people in today’s society will **hear and respond to God’s call**. And do your part to encourage them to consider the priesthood and religious life.

Moreover, one vocation leads to another. “Let us not forget that **Christian marriage is a vocation to holiness in the full sense of the word, and that the example of holy parents is the first condition favorable for the flowering of priestly and religious vocations.**” (Pope Benedict XVI) Also, the Church recognizes that some people, for various reasons, are not called or cannot live in vocations such as marriage or consecrated life. Nonetheless, the Catechism says “they

can contribute greatly to the good of the human family.” (#2231)
 “Some live their situation in the spirit of the Beatitudes, serving God and neighbor in exemplary fashion.” (CCC1658)

... and vocation awareness week

This week, Nov 5-11, Catholics are invited to think about, pray about, and talk about how God is calling individuals

- to consecrated religious life (as a sister or a brother, a monk or a friar) and
- to the ordained life of service of the Church (as a priest or a deacon).

You can **promote a culture of vocation** throughout the week. Talk to your friends and family about vocation. Encourage the young men and women in your life to consider that God might desire for them to serve the world as a priest or religious.

Do you have a buddy who inspires you in your faith? Year after year, the statistics tell this story: Most people consider a consecrated vocation only after having four different people encourage them in that call. Be one of those people!

Seems like that kind of talk is above your pay grade? An encouragement to have such a conversation this very week might be the knowledge that a lot of people are taking this vocation business to God in prayer. This Wednesday, Nov 8, is a statewide **Day of Adoration for Vocations**. Parishes all around Ohio will dedicate an hour of adoration for vocations. At St Bernadette, we will observe **our hour from noon to 1 PM**, the last hour of our weekly Wednesday adoration time. Please join us in prayer

angels nurture & disciple

Angels Nurture & Disciple (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 these roles?

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

Visit angelsAND.org, or contact Gina @ angelsAND.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 alum, invites you to join him on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Feb 21-Mar 2. Cost is \$3179 per person, with meals, fees, and tips included. Contact Aimee Walton at frnicpilgrimage@gmail.com or (740) 225-6136.

in the diocese of columbus

day of reflection

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) will sponsor a day of reflection on Saturday, Nov 18, from 11 AM-1 PM, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Grove City. Diana Marie Winkler will speak on **“Preparing the Woman Within for Advent.”** Cost is \$25 @ person, which includes lunch. To register, send your name, address, e-mail, and phone number, along with payment, to DCCW, 197 E Gay St, Columbus, OH, 43215, by Friday, Nov 10. If you have questions, call Mickey McCormick at (614) 783-5555 or contact the DCCW office at (614) 228-8601.

Luther at the josephinum

The Pontifical College Josephinum invites you to attend a talk on Wednesday, Nov 15, at 7 PM at the Jessing Center on **Learning from Luther: Penitential Living toward Holiness** by renowned Catholic expert on the Reformation, Father Jared Wicks, SJ, Scholar-in-Residence at the Josephinum. This is part of the seminary's 2017-2018 lecture series, “Building Spiritual Bridges to the Community.” Visit pcj.edu for updates.

from the chair

Tune in on Tuesday, Nov 7, when Bishop Campbell and the seminarians of the diocese of Columbus meet for the annual **Seminarian Roundtable** from 5 to 6 PM on St Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820.



November is the Month of the Faithful Departed!

And this is the week of prayer for vocations!

nearly confessions & weekday Mass

But these times sometimes change, 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 Thursday, 3 PM Saturday; 8:30 AM on 1 st Saturday	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 1st Fridays @ 2:40 PM

Two Roman Days

On Thursday and Friday of this week, daily Mass-goers will have the privilege of observing two noteworthy feasts: the dedication of the Basilica of **St John Lateran** in Rome and the feast of a man who lived there, Saint Leo the Great. They are both days well worth thinking about for Catholics who want to keep a lively sense of why they are Catholic.

People who go to Rome for more than a couple of days often visit the four major basilicas. The **Lateran Basilica** is an important church with some remarkable historical details that interest a person who cares about history. But in seven years of living in Rome I never heard anyone get rhapsodic about seeing it. It is impressive and old, but it doesn't seem to inspire much in the way of devotion or piety.

St Peter's Basilica is the really famous and really beautiful church in Rome. It is said to be (now) the second largest church in the world, and it certainly is the most beautiful building I've ever seen. And it houses the bones of St Peter. That's why the popes have chosen to live there in recent centuries. It is called the "**Vatican Basilica**" because it was built on the Vatican Hill. Like the Lateran Basilica and the Basilica of St Paul, it was built by the Emperor Constantine almost 1700 years ago.

St Paul's is a big and impressive remake of a building mostly destroyed by fire 180 years ago; in Roman terms it is so new that people might ignore it but for the tomb of St Paul that is there. Because of its location outside the City, it is called "St Paul outside the Walls."

The Basilica of **St Mary Major** is a wonderful harmonious building, the oldest and largest church in Rome dedicated to Our Lady. Because it was built by Pope Liberius, it is called the "**Liberian Basilica**." Because that was only about 1650 years ago, it is a newcomer among the major basilicas.

When the Emperor Constantine had liberated the Christian community after several centuries of intermittent persecution, the fast growing community needed places to worship. The emperor wanted to show his respect for the bishop of Rome (the pope) by donating a great residence on the south side of the City to the bishop of Rome. (Anywhere in the empire, the Romans liked to refer to their capital as "the City"; even barbarians understood what city they were referring to.) It was there that the pope's headquarters were established and his cathedral was built. This is what makes **the Lateran** the *arch*basilica, **the most important of these four major papal basilicas**. We call these churches "**basilicas**" because they were originally built on the lines of a place where a Roman authority held court. The word literally meant something like a "**kingly assembly place**." The Lateran Basilica is called a "**cathedral**" because it was there that the bishop's "*cathedra*" was established. A *cathedra* was a sort of chair, something like a throne, but with the emphasis on its being **the chair from which a teacher taught**. That's what Bishop Campbell has in mind in calling his radio program on Saint Gabriel Radio "From the Chair."

Being **the pope's cathedral** is what is so special about this church that we celebrate its dedication every year. It is there more than anywhere that we are **reminded of the role of the pope**. He **teaches, sanctifies, and rules the universal Church**, all from the base of this old church building that has gone through so many adjustments through the centuries. So has the role of the pope. But some things are permanent for the pope. For the pope is the successor of Peter to whom the Lord promised that he would build **his Church** on him:

"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, **you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**"

Matthew 16: 17-19

And at the Last Supper, just before predicting Simon Peter's denial of the Lord, Jesus added powerful words about the whole future of Peter's ministry, and the ministry of his successors:

"Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, **you must strengthen your brothers.**"

Luke 22:32-33

Then, finally, in a formative appearance after the resurrection, the risen Jesus conferred a singular pastoral (the word means "shepherding") ministry on Peter with this dialogue of three questions:

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"

He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "**Feed my lambs.**"

He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "**Tend my sheep.**"

He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?"

and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." He said to him, "**Feed my sheep.**"

John 21:15-17

It is fitting that on the day after we celebrate the dedication of the Lateran Basilica we honor one of the greatest of the occupants of the house next to that cathedral. It is **the feast of St Leo the Great**. He was the forty-fourth successor of Peter, and one of the very greatest, one of four who have been called the great (the others are Gregory I, Nicholas I, and John Paul II). Leo lived in the years immediately prior to the fall of the Roman Empire. The civil authority was very weak and the threat from the extraordinarily savage barbarian warlord **Attila the Hun** was obviously unstoppable. Leo rode out to meet him. And whatever it was that he said to the unstoppable Hun, it made him turn around and leave behind his opportunity to sack and pillage the very rich but undefended city.

When there was a heresy (a false teaching about a fundamental doctrine of the Christian Faith) Leo wrote a response to the bishop of Constantinople. When it was read at the fourth ecumenical council (at Chalcedon) the bishops responded aloud: "**Peter has spoken!**" And he had. As the bishops realized, this **lion of a man** (the name "Leo" means lion) spoke with the authority of one who knows that he holds the **keys of the kingdom of heaven**, that the **gates of the netherworld** would not prevail against him, and that he must **strengthen his brothers**. He understood what it meant to be the pope.

— Father Kessler

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