



## **The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins**

a reflection on the parable in today's Gospel reading  
(in Matthew 25:1-9)  
about readiness and unreadiness to meet the Lord

**The 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year**  
**at Lancaster St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary**

November 12, 2017

## St Bernadette Parish.

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

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

cover picture: [The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins](#)

The angel is blowing a horn to announce the arrival of the long-expected bridegroom. And, of course, that bridegroom is the Lord, coming in glory, with salvation for his people. Five of the women have their lamps ready and lit. Five others, by their unreadiness, have put themselves in the (everlasting) dark.

Painted (ca 1822) by the English poet and painter, William Blake (1757-1827) in pen and watercolour  
Tate Gallery, London

## St Mary Parish.

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

### our parishes

**Father Thomas Kessler** (614) 634-0499 [wmothomaskessler@icloud.com](mailto:wmothomaskessler@icloud.com)  
*pastor*

**at St Bernadette Parish**

**Jeff Carpenter** (740) 681-9918 [carpenter.277@osu.edu](mailto:carpenter.277@osu.edu)  
*deacon*

**Mark Scarpitti** (740) 438-3970 [dcn.mark@frontier.com](mailto:dcn.mark@frontier.com)  
*deacon*

**Ann Essman** (740) 653-9347 [aessman001@att.net](mailto:aessman001@att.net)  
*pastoral minister*

**Steve Huber** (740) 654-3137 [shuber57@yahoo.com](mailto:shuber57@yahoo.com)  
*facilities coordinator*

**Angie & Kent Kerns** (740) 654-2588 [kwkerns@gmail.com](mailto:kwkerns@gmail.com)  
*religious education*

**Liz Latorre** (740) 243-1872 [lizlatorre@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us)  
*liturgical music*

**Sarah Borah** [sborah920@gmail.com](mailto: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) 569-7738

**at both parishes**

**Stephen Karnes** (740) 654-1893 [stbernbook@gmail.com](mailto:stbernbook@gmail.com)  
*business manager*

**Kathy Kehnast** (740) 654-1893 [stbernparish@yahoo.com](mailto:stbernparish@yahoo.com)  
*pastoral coordinator*

**Julie & Chase Stalford** (740) 808-7294 [maristellspirit@gmail.com](mailto:maristellspirit@gmail.com)  
*youth ministry*

**Saint Bernadette School**

**Pam Eltringham** (740) 654-3137 [peltring@cducation.org](mailto:peltring@cducation.org)  
*principal*

**Barb Huber** (740) 654-3137 [bhuber@cducation.org](mailto:bhuber@cducation.org)  
*secretary*

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

Lancaster St Vincent de Paul Society website [www.svdplancasteroh.com](http://www.svdplancasteroh.com)

Diocese of Columbus website: [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org)

### sacramental life

#### Baptism

To have a child baptized, you must register and attend a class as a couple (unless attendance just isn't possible, in which case some discussion with Kathy Kehnast will be necessary). Sessions are held quarterly for both parishes. Try to 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 have 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, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### 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.

### Listen to God's Word and Honor His Saints

<b>Sunday, Nov 12,</b>	Wisdom 6:12-16	Psalm 63		
<b>32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>25:1-13</b>	
Mon, Nov 13	Wisdom 1:1-7 Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini	Psalm 139	Luke 17:1-6	
Tues, Nov 14	Wisdom 2:23-3:9	Psalm 34	Luke 17:7-10	
Weds, Nov 15	Wisdom 6:1-11 Saint Albert the Great, bishop & doctor of the Church	Psalm 82	Luke 17:11-19	
Thurs, Nov 16	Wisdom 7:22-8:1 Saint Margaret of Scotland, Saint Gertrude	Psalm 119	Luke 17:20-25	
Fri, Nov 17	Wisdom 13:1-9 Saint Elizabeth of Hungary	Psalm 19	Luke 17:26-37	
Sat, Nov 18	Wisdom 18:14-19:9 Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, virgin	Psalm 105	Luke 18:1-8	
<b>Sunday, Nov 19,</b>	Proverbs 31:10-31	Psalm 128		
<b>33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>	1 Thessalonians 5:1-6	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>25:14-30</b>	

### Mass Intentions This Week

Monday, Nov 13	8:20 AM	Eileen Clark	at St Bernadette
Tuesday, Nov 14	8:20 AM	deceased of Schmelzer family	at Bremen St Mary
Wednesday, Nov 15	8:20 AM	Wilford & Loretta Beiter	at St Bernadette
Thursday, Nov 16	6 PM	Jeffrey Huber	at St Bernadette
Friday, Nov 17	8:20 AM	Kohler-Mahon families	at St Bernadette

## at both parishes

### Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Next week at Sunday Masses you can donate to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Over 46 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs to empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to lift themselves out of poverty. By supporting this collection, you give people a hand up, not a hand out. Learn about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at [www.usccb.org/cchd/collection](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/collection).

### Our 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](mailto: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.

### Friends Forever

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

### 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.

### A Surprising Advent Bible Study

Come and learn **how to read and how to pray** the four surprising liturgical prayers and three of the surprisingly moving joyful mysteries embedded in the two infancy chapters of the Gospel of Saint Luke. Father Kessler will lead these Advent reflections (with some gorgeous illustrations!) on Mondays, Dec 4, 11, and 18 from 7-8:30 PM.

### 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 correspond-

ing 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

### 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 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 12	Karen Wolfe	Reagan Conrad Alex Schmelzer	Leo Kunkler Sr, Dismas Schmelzer, Karen Wolfe	John Schoenlaub family	Jim Schmelzer
Nov 19	Joe Young	Caden & Cody Fyffe	Pam Redding, Joe & Cathy Young	Joe Young family	Joe Young

### 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.

## at st bernadette parish

### A Parish Family Meal

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. Next Saturday evening we will have one of these feasts. Sign-up sheets are on the tables in the school hallway. Bring a table cloth, table setting, and a dish to pass. Drinks will be provided. Here’s what you are asked to bring: If your last name begins with

A-K: bring a salad or side dish,  
L-N: bring a dessert, and  
O-Z: bring a meat or main dish.

Arrive at Mass a little early to set up and reserve your place for lunch. After eating, stay for a little while and get to know some of the very nice people who will be there.

Here is the schedule:

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

Save these dates. You ought to come. You will be very glad if you do. Put them on your calendar. Schedule around them. For information or to sign up to bring a dish to pass, contact Kathy at (740) 654-1893.

### 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.

### Blood Drive

St Bernadette’s next Red Cross Blood Drive happens Saturday, Dec 2, from 9 AM-2 PM in the parish hall. There will be lunch and cupcakes, along with Christmas crafts for kids. There is no upper age limit for blood donation, and 16 year olds can donate with a signed parental permission slip. Provide the gift of life the Christmas season. Appointments are made at [www . redcrossblood . org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or by calling Joyce Guenther at (740) 974-5040 Thank you.

### K of C Thanks Him for His Service

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.

### Advent Drive for St Vincent de Paul

The Lancaster St Vincent de Paul Society tells us that their biggest need these days is for non-perishable foods, paper products (kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper), personal hygiene products (deodorant, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes), and laundry products including detergent. So that’s what they ask us to provide. Don’t worry about too much of any of these items. There won’t be too much, for the Society will share surplus items with the St Francis Center in McArthur. This drive will last through the four Sundays of Advent. Our drop off point will be in the vestibule between the school entrance and the church.

### 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 if you have any questions.

### 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	
<b>Saturday, 4:00 PM</b>	Terry Carpenter	Mallory, Mason, & Mitchell Ortiz	Shelia Taylor Rosie DeFillippo Bob & Angie Christy	Kathy Kehnast Brad Rider
<b>Sunday, Nov 12 11:00 AM</b>	Sandy Landefeld	Avee & Drew Solt, Daniel Turner	Pat Dreyer Wickham Mary Jane Vajen John & Teresa Hartig	Becky Amy Woo
Monday, 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Olivia Reynolds Amelia Robertson	Patricia Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Morgan Cox Hyde O'Rielley	Mary Jane Vajen	Angie Christy
Thursday, 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Silus Hopkins Kyndra Nagle	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan
Friday, 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Isabelle Lazar Daschel Neighbor	Jim & Rita Merk	
<b>Saturday, 4:00 PM</b>	Marguerite Grimm	Gus & Olivia Spiegel, Lexi Utz	Tara Craaybeek Susan Garrett Sandy Landefeld	Joyce Guenther Craig Shaw Lee Guinan
<b>Sunday, Nov 19, 11:00 AM</b>	Pat Gins	Samantha Kerns, Logan & Tori Loy	Nancy Griffith Teresa Scarpitti Jim & Rita Merk	David Shonk Jean Robertson

## 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.

## 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,

- 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 mw Walsh @ cducation . org.

## here and there

### An Irish Party

Chuck Rogers/Bishop Fenwick Class of 1969 Fund is joining Fisher Catholic Alumni Association to kick off the holidays by throwing a party. Join them on Wednesday, Nov 22, from 7 PM–midnight at FC Alumni Hall. Local band Bad Influence will rock the hall. Food and legal beverages available for purchase. Adult gathering (must be 18+ years old). To help sponsor this fun event, contact Jim Faulkner at (614) 284-9369 or Jfaulk51 @ hotmail . com

### 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.

### Martin 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.

### Donations a Vehicle to the Josephinum

The seminarians and maintenance department at the Pontifical College Josephinum are in need of used vans, SUVs and pick-up trucks for campus activities. If you could donate, call their business office at (614) 985-2230 and arrangements can be made before December 31. The Josephinum will provide the necessary documentation.

### Healing Mass

A Mass of Healing and Healing Service happens on Monday, Nov 20, at 6:30 PM at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Columbus. After the Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and veneration of a relic of the true Cross of Christ will be followed by an opportunity for each person to speak individually with a priest and receive prayers of healing; the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is also available. The Service of Healing concludes with Benediction. All persons who seek Christ's healing are invited – especially those who suffer with physical illness and infirmities (e.g. cancer and other debilitating diseases and conditions), and those in seek emotional and spiritual healing. All caregivers, family members, and members of the medical community are invited as well. For questions, call the Cathedral at (614) 224-1295.

### A Job For You?

The Catholic Foundation is looking for a data analyst to administer all database operations including devising and implementing data standards, ensuring data quality, and collecting and reporting constituency information. A bachelor's degree in

business administration or related field of study is preferred, as well as experience in a philanthropic office organization supporting grants and/or development. Qualified candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to admin@catholic-foundation.org no later than November 17. For details, visit www.catholic-foundation.org/employment.

## Giving Tuesday

The Catholic Foundation is excited to be joining the #GivingTuesday movement on Tuesday, November 28. Charities, families, parishes, community centers, and schools around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate and encourage giving. Anyone, anywhere can get involved in #GivingTuesday and give back in a way that is meaningful to them. From fundraising to volunteering to pro bona service, #GivingTuesday is a great way to engage your community and to become part of a larger worldwide movement that promotes generosity. As you join #GivingTuesday, consider giving to your parish or school fund available at The Catholic Foundation. To see a list of all the existing funds you can give to on #GivingTuesday (and all year long) simply visit, www.catholic-foundation.org/funds and use the search box on the left side. If you don't see your parish, school, or organization listed, contact Scott Hartman at shartman@catholic-foundation.org or (614) 443-8896.

## Natural Family Planning

**Say yes to God's plan.** Whether you've discerned God calling you to try to **achieve or postpone pregnancy**, Natural Family Planning (NFP) can help you and your spouse live God's plan for love and life, while strengthening your marriage relationship. Engaged and married couples are invited to learn NFP by attending a diocesan NFP class series, on Mondays, from 7-9 PM at St Paul Parish, Westerville. To register or learn more, go to www.columbuscatholic.org/natural-family-planning or contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560.

## How a Protestant Saw the Catholic Church

"There is not, and there never was on this earth, a work of human policy so well deserving of examination as the Roman Catholic Church... She saw the commencement of all the governments and of all the ecclesiastical establishments that now exist in the world; and we feel no assurance that she is not destined to see the end of them all. She was great and

respected before the Saxon had set foot on Britain, before the Frank had passed the Rhine, when Grecian eloquence still flourished at Antioch, when idols were still worshipped in the temple of Mecca. And she may still exist in undiminished vigour when some traveller from New Zealand shall, in the midst of a vast solitude, take his stand on a broken arch of London Bridge to sketch the ruins of St. Paul's."

—Thomas Babington Macaulay, 1840

as cited by "McNamara's Blog:

Musings of a Catholic Church Historian from Queens, New York"

## Some of the Things a Parish Needs

A parish needs the regular and **faithful attendance of all the parishioners** at Sunday Mass. This is not a luxury for the particularly pious. It is what Catholics do. All the people of the parish need to do it, if they possibly can. When the number drops off, the quality of parish life drops off. In this generation, there has been **such a significant drop off** all over our country. This is a serious problem. In many cases it amounts to a kind of religious suicide. But no one has to be merely a part of the statistics.

A parish needs people who are aware that **the new role of the laity called for by the Second Vatican Council** is not about having lay people take over clergy jobs. It is not about lay people becoming the ruling body or the trustees of a parish. It has to do rather with lay people bringing the Catholic message into the marketplace, into their neighborhoods and jobs and schools. The Council's notion of the role of laity in the parish is that they **be cooperators, not just consumers** of services.

A parish needs for each member to be **concerned to share the Faith** with others, including our next generation, but also our spouses and neighbors. A new effort for evangelization is needed in the Church. A healthy parish makes this a high priority.

A parish needs to be rich in **works of Christian charity**. That doesn't mean just making financial contributions or giving foodstuffs or no-longer needed clothes and household items. Those are essential, but so is the personal contact and friendly, respectful smile of the parishioners. This happens in a big way with the local councils of the St Vincent de Paul Society. They help coordinate our charitable efforts and see that more people become involved and that there is continuity in our efforts. But most of all to see that the St Vincent members grow spiritually.



# November is the Month of the Faithful Departed!

## nearly confessions & weekday Mass

But these times sometimes change, so be sure to call ahead!

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

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# Keep Holy the Lord's Day!

## It's a Good Idea ... and It's the Law!

Not as many of us are going to church on Sunday as used to. There are many explanations. Some truly excuse the non-attenders, like sickness, a demobilizing handicap, weather that has caused dangerous driving conditions, unavoidable travel complications, and a work schedule that makes it truly impossible. (Having Masses at three different times on two different days and having helpful websites like [Masstimes.com](http://Masstimes.com) can ease the problem of many non-attenders.) Other reasons don't work at all: disliking a particular priest or members of a congregation, etc, the completely false notion that the Church has no authority over us – these just don't erase a serious moral duty. Perhaps a lackadaisical catechesis in the past didn't make the authority clear, but Jesus really did say to Simon Peter and to his successors that what he “binds on earth is bound in heaven and what he looses on earth will be loosed in heaven” (Matt 16). And the Church has indeed bound us to this obligation (and privilege!).

During October each year all the parishes in our diocese count the attendance at each Sunday Mass (including Saturday vigil Mass). Last month on an average Sunday:

- at St Bernadette 357 people attended Mass (or 30%) in 2017; 170 at the Saturday vigil Mass, 187 on Sunday morning;
  - in 2012 there were a total of 591; 214 at Saturday vigil Mass, 255 on Sunday morning, and 122 on Sunday evening.
- at St Mary 107 people (or 32%) attended Mass in 2017;
  - in 2012 there were a total of 132; 51 at the Saturday vigil Mass and 81 on Sunday morning;
- That means that Father Kessler celebrated Sunday Mass each week in 2017 for 464 people, of whom 77% were at St Bernadette, 23% at St Mary;
  - in 2012 there were two priests celebrating Mass for 723 people, of whom 81% were at St Bernadette, 19% at St Mary.

Attendance patterns fluctuate. Special events or special weather circumstances can depress attendance at the Masses at either parish. But the sad nationwide trend toward dropping the sense of duty about this serious obligation is hitting our parishes.

The Church permits a Sunday vigil Mass on Saturday evening, but she has no interest in the modern invention of the 2-day weekend. Sunday is always the Lord's day, the first day of the week, a day to remember Easter. I developed a rule when I edited our diocesan newspaper, the *Catholic Times*, and that I continue to apply for our parish bulletin: **There is no such thing as a “weekend Mass”**; we go to Sunday Mass, even when it is celebrated on a Saturday evening. Saturday evening Sunday Mass (sic) fulfills the obligation, but it certainly isn't what the Church had in mind when, in the very first century of Christianity, she changed the observance of the weekly holy day of the Lord from the Sabbath (Saturday) to the day of the Resurrection, Sunday. We celebrate Easter on the first day of each week (not the seventh day which is the Jewish Sabbath, the day of rest following the work week, like the rest of God after his six days of creation). Because of the hardship of some people's work schedule, in the 1960s, the Church made a concession allowing us to fulfill that obligation at a Saturday evening vigil Mass. It was not meant to be a way of getting our obligation “out of the way” so that we could have Sunday to ourselves. Sunday remains the Lord's Day. It is the special day for going to Mass. But it is also our “day of rest.”

Didn't the Church at the Second Vatican Council change all that business about a duty to attend Mass and to refrain from unnecessary “servile work”? Don't you believe it! Here is what that Council's great document on the holy liturgy had to say about it:

By a tradition handed down from the apostles, which took its origin from the very day of Christ's resurrection, the Church celebrates the paschal mystery every eighth day; with good reason this, then, bears the name of the Lord's day or Sunday. For on this day **Christ's faithful are bound to come together into one place so that, by hearing the word of God and taking part in the Eucharist, they may call to mind the passion, the resurrection and the glorification of the Lord Jesus, and may thank God who “has begotten them again, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto a living hope” (1 Pet 1:3)**. Hence the Lord's day is the original feast day, and it should be proposed to the piety of the faithful and taught to them so that it may become in fact **a day of joy and of freedom from work**. Other celebrations, unless they be truly of greatest importance, shall not have precedence over the Sunday which is the foundation and kernel of the whole liturgical year. *Sacrosanctum Concilium* 106

Notice that we are **bound** to this Mass attendance, and that we should make it **a day of joy and of freedom from work**. This two-part observance is presented as a law (or precept) in the Catechism of the Catholic Church

The first precept (“You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor”) requires the faithful to **sanctify the day** commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, **by participating in the Eucharistic celebration**, in which the Christian community is gathered, **and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification** of these days. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2042

There is a duty to attend Mass but also a duty to rest. Not loaf, certainly, but to stay together around the church or with family. That includes not being involved in the kind of good and legitimate work and good and legitimate activities that give shape to the six weekdays. Sunday is different. It is a day not only for going to Mass but for avoiding the kinds of labor that are unnecessary on that day. There is work that society needs (like that of the hospital nursing staff, police officers, firefighters, etc) as well as the job which one can only keep by working on Sundays (like many factory jobs and nearly all retail jobs etc). But the work we must refrain from isn't just the punching in at the shop or the office. We must refrain, **to the extent that it is possible (not to the extent that it is convenient)**, from the routine, weekday things that are not focused on the Lord. That includes sports teams, games, and practices. That's why we don't have any of those on Sunday in a Catholic parish or school. Even very good recreational activities can be part of a kind of rat race which keeps us from that day of rest that is required by **the Lord's very generous commandment**.

We can reclaim the day of the Lord, a day he has given us for our own sakes and the sake of our families. Give it a try.

—Father Kessler

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