



Christ the King

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with him,
he will sit upon his glorious throne,
and all the nations will be assembled before him.”

The Feast of Christ the King at Lancaster St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary

November 26, 2017

St Bernadette Parish

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

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

cover picture: **Christ the King**

a panel from among the panels of the much larger polyptych altar piece, The Adoration of the Mystical Lamb, painted (1432) by Hubert and especially his brother Jan van Eyck
For a bit more information, see the brief essay on the last page of this bulletin.

the Vyd Chapel in St. Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent, Belgium

St Mary Parish

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

our parishes

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pastor

at St Bernadette Parish

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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

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liturgical music

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The St Mary Parish office is at the church vestibule.

Hours are 9-11 AM, Tuesdays.

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at both parishes

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Saint Bernadette School is located at

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www.stbernadetteschool.com

Lancaster St Vincent de Paul Society www.svdplancasteroh.com
Diocese of Columbus www.columbuscatholic.org
Angels Nurture & Disciple (AND) www.angelsAND.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 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 ever-living God,
whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son,
the King of the universe,
grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery,
may render your majesty service
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.
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.

in December the Pope Prays

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities,
may apply their wisdom and experience
to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Listen to God's Word and Honor His Saints

Sunday, Nov 26,	Ezekiel 34:11-17	Psalm 23		
Christ the King	1 Corinthians 15:20-28	Matthew	25:31-46	
Mon, Nov 27	Daniel 1:1-20	Daniel 3	Luke 21:1-4	
Tues, Nov 28	Daniel 2:31-45	Daniel 3	Luke 21:5-11	
Weds, Nov 29	Daniel 5:1-28	Daniel 3	Luke 21:12-19	
Thurs, Nov 30	Romans 10:9-18	Psalm 19	Matt 4:18-22	
	Saint Andrew, apostle			
Fri, Dec 1	Daniel 7:2-14	Daniel 3	Luke 21:29-33	
Sat, Dec 2	Daniel 7:15-27	Daniel 3	Luke 21:34-36	
Sunday, Dec 3,	Isaiah 63:16-64:7	Psalm 80		
1st Sunday Advent	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark	13:33-37	

Mass Intentions This Week

Monday, Nov 27	8:20 AM	Diana Harris	at St Bernadette
Tuesday, Nov 28	8:20 AM	NO MASS	at Bremen St Mary
Wednesday, Nov 29	8:20 AM	NO MASS	at St Bernadette
Thursday, Nov 30	6 PM	deceased of Guenther & Goudy families	at St Bernadette
Friday, Dec 1	8:20 AM	Louise Mathias	at St Bernadette
Saturday, Dec 2	9 AM	Timothy Daugherty	at St Bernadette

at Both Parishes

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.

The Market Has Done Well, and So Can You ... through the Catholic Foundation

The strong stock market this year has been a boon to individual portfolios. As stock prices have soared, so too have the values of IRA's, 401K's and other retirement plans. But for many, an increase in the price of their stocks represents an unwelcome byproduct: capital gains which are taxed.

Capital gains are the difference between the price paid for a stock and its current market value. This difference, or gain, is taxable when selling the stock. However, if appreciated stock is donated to your parish or school, through the Catholic Foundation, you avoid having to pay capital gains taxes. The stock proceeds can be added to existing Endowment Funds that support a Catholic cause that is important to you or used to create a new Endowment or the flexible Donor Advised Fund.

If you would like more information about stock donations, contact Scott Hartman, (614) 443-8893 or shartman@catholic-foundation.org, for additional details. To ensure all stock is received prior to the last business day of the year (Friday, Dec 29) all stock transactions should be initiated by Monday, Dec 18.

Very Newly Baptized!

Welcome and pray for St Bernadette's newest Christian, **Luke Joseph Robers**, son of Joseph and Melissa Robers, who was baptized on Sunday, Nov 12. And St Mary has an even newer Christian, **Carter Benton Barringer**, son of Ryan and Malisa Barringer, who was baptized on Nov 19. Newest in the Faith is **Claire Elizabeth Linman**, daughter of Richard and Jillian Linman, who will be baptized this afternoon at St Bernadette.

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**
- 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.

at Bremen St Mary Parish

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 26	Susan Foltz	Carly Kunkler, Sydnee Rogers	Susan Foltz, Jim Schmelzer, Angi Skinner	Leo Kunkler Sr family	Jim Schmelzer
Nov 28	NO MASS AT ST MARY IN BREMEN TODAY				
Dec 3	Paul Kunkler	Isaac Schmelzer, Nicole Terry	Irene Kunkler, Joe & Cathy Young	Paul Kunkler 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

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.

May She Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Barbara Egan**, who died on Nov 16 and was buried last Monday.

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.

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. The Society has a new website; you can learn about the many activities of the Lancaster St Vincent de Paul Society at [www . svdplancasteroh . com](http://www.svdplancasteroh.com)

Youth Choir

The **Saint Cecilia Society** (our parish youth choir) has begun its seventh season, and meets Sundays 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 practices on **Wednesdays at 7 PM** in the church. The choir is 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 involved in the parish and grow in the Faith? Contact Liz Latorre after Mass or call or text her at (740) 243-1872 if you have any questions.

Book Fair

Hundreds of children's books, as well as religious books, adult best-sellers, and unique cookbooks, will be available for purchase at the St Bernadette Scholastic Book Fair in the school library Monday through Friday this week, 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 Fair will be used to **purchase TVs and DVD players for our classrooms**, replacing 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

Nov 25 - Dec 3	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
Saturday, 4:00 PM	Becky Kuhn	Joey Mannella, Addy Myers, Jack Tencza	Bob & Angie Christy Kathy Kehnast Jim Kuhn	Denise McGuire Mickey Steyaert
Sunday, Nov 26 11:00 AM	John Hartig	Anna Hartig, Avee & Drew Solt	Teresa Hartig Mary Jane Vajen Becky Wickham	Anna Sevigny Ben Peters Larry Sanford
Monday, 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Daschel Neighbor, Hyde O'Rielley	Patricia Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast
Weds, 8:20 AM	NO MASS AT ST BERNADETTE TODAY			
Thursday, 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Silus Hopkins, Kyndra Nagle	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan
Friday, 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Morgan Cox, Amelia Robertson	Rita Merk	Mary Jane Vajen
Saturday, 9 AM	Kara Tencza	Jack Tencza	Jim & Rita Merk	
Saturday, 4:00 PM	Brad Rider	Mallory, Mason & Mitchell Ortiz	Tara Craaybeek Rosie DeFillippo Joyce Guenther	Teresa Scarpitti Shelia Taylor Kathy Wagner
Sunday, Dec 3, 11:00 AM	David Shonk	Collin & Emma McCrady, Caroline Messerly	Teresa Carpenter Pat Dreyer Jim & Rita Merk	Pat Gins 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. 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 [mwalsh @ cducation . org](mailto:mwalsh@cducation.org).

Here and There

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 invites you to join him on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Israel. Travelers will experience the places where Jesus walked, lived, taught, and performed miracles. Mass will be celebrated daily at various holy sites. The dates for this spiritual journey are Feb 21-Mar 2. The cost is \$3179 per person with breakfast, dinner, fees, and tips included. For information, contact Aimee Walton frnicpilgrimage@gmail.com or (740) 225-6136.

In the Diocese of Columbus

Catholic Record Society

The quarterly meeting of the Catholic Record Society happens on Sunday, Dec 10, at 2 PM at the Columbus Historical Society, 717-719 West Town Street, Columbus. The speaker will be William Heyer, architect, who will present "Church Architecture and Beauty: the Struggles and Rewards of Designing with Traditional Architecture." He will be talking about sacred spaces, people, and challenges and rewards in his recent work for the diocese of Columbus and the Pontifical College Josephinum. Mr Heyer is the owner of a classical architecture studio located in Bexley, and he recently completed the restoration of the main seminary chapel at the Josephinum and built the new Sacred Hearts Church in Cardington. The meeting will be in the new location of the Columbus Historical Society, at the west side of the building at 719 West Town Street, which is on the southwest corner of the Route 315 South exit, with plenty of free parking and with handicapped-accessibility. For information contact Chairman Mike Finn at fcoolavin@aol.com or (614) 268-4166.

Catholic Men's Luncheon Club

The next Catholic Men's Luncheon Club will feature a talk by newly ordained priest Fr Daniel Olvera, parochial vicar, Knox-Licking Consortium of Catholic Churches on Friday, Dec 1, at St Patrick Church in Columbus. Holy Mass begins at 11:45 AM followed by lunch and Fr Olvera's talk until about 1 PM. Reservations are not needed; \$10 covers the lunch and meeting. For information on Catholic Men's Luncheons, visit www.catholicmensministry.com/cmhc or contact George Harvey, CMLC President at George.Harvey@TVSSOhio.com.

Catholic Man of the Year

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club is accepting nominations for the Diocese of Columbus 2018 Catholic Man of the Year. This annual award—to be presented by Bishop Frederick Campbell on Friday, Feb 2, at the Men's Luncheon—recognizes one lay man who, through his daily actions, words, and prayers, exemplifies the "good and faithful servant". The recipient will share his personal testimony during the ceremony. Nominations will be accepted through Dec 29. For details, nomination instructions and the required nomination form, go to www.catholicmensministry.com. Email the completed nomination form and up to five supporting testimonials to catholicmanoftheyear@gmail.com.

Breakfast with Santa

St Mark Church in Lancaster invites you to a breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec 2, with seatings from 8:30-10 AM and 10:30-NOON. Cost is \$5 @ in advance, \$6 at the door, and \$25 for families of 5 or more immediate family members. Want to help Santa help others this Christmas? Bring a canned food item to donate to the St Mark Food Pantry (donations are optional). Visit their Facebook page for information.

Advent Morning of Reflection

Sts Peter & Paul Retreat Center in Newark presents *The Precious Present: Advent*, a time to pray and reflect on God's gifts to each of us, led by Sr Louis Mary Passeri, on Saturday, Dec 16, from 9-11:30 AM. Cost of \$20 includes continental breakfast. Register at (740) 928-4246 or info @ stpeterandpaulretreatcenter.org or register online at www.stpeterandpaulretreatcenter.com by Monday, Dec 11.

Donating a Vehicle to the Josephinum

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

Giving Tuesday

The Catholic Foundation is joining the #Giving Tuesday movement on Tuesday, Nov 28. Charities, families, parishes, community centers, and schools around the world will gather for a common purpose: to celebrate and encourage giving. **From fundraising to volunteering to pro bono service**, #GivingTuesday engages our 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 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 or school listed contact Scott Hartman at shartman@catholic-foundation.org or (614) 443-8896.

Natural Family Planning

Whether God is calling you to try **to achieve or to postpone pregnancy**, Natural Family Planning (NFP) can help a married couple live God's plan for love and life, while strengthening the marriage relationship. Engaged and married couples can learn NFP at a diocesan NFP class series. To learn more, go to www.columbuscatholic.org/natural-family-planning or contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560.

More Things a Parish Needs

A parish needs lay folks who are **willing to volunteer for specific tasks**. That means signing up for things and not holding back to see if somebody else will do the job, not waiting to see if the people you want to work with are going to be involved, not waiting to see if something else more interesting might come up instead. It means **not marking out turf** that is yours alone to run.

A parish needs to educate the children. For most of us that means sending kids to Catholic schools every day or to PSR every week. My parents **didn't give us any option**. They said we had to do the thing we were committed to do whether we were interested or not. Why do some parents cave in? Because they want their kids to like them? Because they want to "choose their battles"? When they say religious education is the child's choice, they have already chosen to lose the struggle to raise the children in the Catholic Faith. Parents need to be willing to say "**as long as you live under my roof, you will go to Mass on Sunday**" or "**you will go to religious education every week**." Their kids may accuse them of being tyrants; that's a ploy kids have used since time immemorial to get their way. The new thing is that some parents now cave in to that pressure. And that is very sad.

A parish needs for its kids and parents to insist that **no other activity is ever going to preempt going to Mass and to religious education class.**

A parish needs to have a spirit of **regular support of the church, at a level that is in keeping with the actual need and the ability to pay.** This requires that everyone — well-employed, underemployed or even jobless — make a commitment to give at a certain level as regularly as possible. When our circumstances change we may have to adjust downward ... or we may be able to adjust upward in the amount of our giving. But **fixing an amount** on the basis of our gratitude for the good things the Lord has done for us, and then attempting to **follow through on that amount** to the best of our ability — that is how it is possible for a parish to carry out its needs.

A parish doesn't need a lot of programs or a lot of employees. Sometimes we forget that **the really basic program of a Catholic parish is the liturgical life.** The "source and summit" of our parish liturgical life — of all our parish life and of all of our lives as followers of the Lord Jesus— is

Sunday Mass. But people who seek enrichment, who seek to know the Lord better, to have prayer experiences and continuing education, should think about going to daily Mass and/or to the daily praying of the Liturgy of Hours which we do for ten minutes each morning at Morning Prayer. These are our fundamental programs. Add to that the special services, like Lenten Stations of the Cross and Penance Services and you see some of the basics of Catholic life. (There's more!) Of course, most people can't attend these services most of the time. But a lot of people can at least from time to time.

In a lot of ways, a lot of people are fulfilling these needs. Some are making a heroic effort. Many are doing the very best they can, even if that is not obvious. All of us need to **examine our consciences to see what we can do to make our parish better.** Thank you all for your efforts, for all you do.



Next Sunday Begins the Holy Season of Advent!

Advent and Penance

It is the season to ... what? Shop? Decorate? Send cards? Give gifts? Go to parties? Do we do these things in honor of Jesus? Well, actually it is **the season to prepare the way of the Lord.** Those other activities may help us prepare the way of the Lord. Or they may not. They are not the main preparation. Turning our hearts to him is. Going to Confession is **how Catholics do that.**

We have Confession every Thursday at 5:30 at St Bernadette and every Saturday at 3 at St Bernadette and at 8 AM on Sunday at St Mary. That's all year round because it is an all-year-round sacrament. To teach this lesson, we are trying to increase the frequency of Penance Services at St Bernadette School.

And during Advent, we will have **communal Penance services** with individual confessions (and extra priests to help make that work!) at each of the parishes and schools in our deanery.

The Sacrament of Penance is very much a part of Catholic life. But it is the easiest part to drift away from. The Church reminds us that we need to confess our sins, at the very least, once a year. We need it, even if we haven't any very serious sins. Saint John reminds us bluntly that

"If we say, 'We are without sin,' we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing." 1 John 1:8-9

If you have been away for a while, it is time to come back.

Decide which service or which Confession time you will attend this Advent. So, you can prepare the way of the Lord!

in the parishes

Logan St John	Tuesday	Dec 5	7 PM
St Bernadette	Sunday	Dec 10	3 PM
Circleville St Joseph	Sunday	Dec 10	4 PM
Lancaster St Mark	Tuesday	Dec 12	7 PM
Lancaster St Mary	Thursday	Dec 14	7 PM
Bremen St Mary	Sunday	Dec 17	3 PM

Sugar Grove St Joseph	Tuesday	Dec 19	7 PM
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in the schools

Lancaster St Mary School	Wednesday	Dec 6	9 AM
Logan St John School	Tuesday	Dec 12	10:30 AM
Lancaster St Bernadette School	Thursday	Dec 14	8:30 AM

how to get ready for confession

Think about how long it has been since you last confessed, think of your sins, and make a firm commitment. Thank God for this gift of sacramental reconciliation and ask his help not to sin again.

how to go to confession

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Penitent: Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been (*how long?*) since my last confession, and these are my sins: (*confess your sins*).

Priest: (*gives you a penance and perhaps some advice*)

Penitent: (*pray an Act of Contrition such as:*)
My God, I am heartily sorry for having offended thee. I detest all my sins with all my heart because they have offended thee my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to sin no more, and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.

Priest: (*gives you absolution*)

Priest: Go in peace.

Penitent: Say "thank you" and go back to your place in church to thank God and recite or do your penance as soon as possible.

A Season Too Soon

Thanksgiving has come and gone. The parades are over; the biggest family dinner of the year (for many families) is down to the best leftovers of the year; the heaviest travel day of the year is said to be today; and the heaviest shopping of the year—the make or break shopping (for the retail industry, not for the shopper) of Black Friday, with hordes of shoppers and billions spent on Christmas gifts — all of that is behind us.

So now it is Christmas. Right? Well, not exactly. A month from yesterday it will be Christmas. But the Christmas decorations are going up—are already up—and the Christmas music has been on the radio for almost a week now. In fact, the music and many of the decorations will be gone by a month from tomorrow.

But it isn't even Advent yet. Won't be until next Sunday. **Today is the Feast of Christ the King.** Okay, you might be tempted to say, but doesn't life have two compartments? There is church, where Christmas might last from December 25 through the Twelve Days of Christmas, until the Feast of Epiphany. But in ... real life ... there is the holiday season: doesn't the season of bright lights and festival music span the time from a little before Thanksgiving until Christmas Day itself?

There are some important questions about all that. First, is that real life? Or is it the artificial life that has become detached from reality? If the coming into the world of the Savior of the world—"for us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven" and dwelt among us—if that is the meaning of Christmas and if that is the origin of Christmas, then it is the great reality for us to celebrate in the coming weeks. If we let other forces, other peoples' agendas, shape the kind of Christmas we will celebrate, we will probably get the whole thing wrong.

And then there is the problem of **forgetting how to wait.** One of the first things to get right in **our celebration of the Coming of our God** is a restoration of one of the first lessons we learned about Christmas: the benefits of a disciplined waiting. As little children, we had to wait. We knew that there were going to be special foods, special music, special decorations, and special gifts. But not until Christmas itself. And waiting can feel so unnecessary. As children, we learned that eagerness was actually enhanced by the slight discipline of Advent: the abstaining from meat on the eve of the great feast, the postponement of the parties and gift giving until Christmas Day itself.

Willingness to wait—in eager but patient expectation—for something wonderful enhances the joy of celebrating what is wonderful. If we lose that discipline of waiting, we are the losers. If we don't teach it in our families, our children are also the losers. Of course, we want to be gratified, and gratified now. And it is hard to see any point to the postponement. Culturally we have a hard time understanding that wait: the wait until adulthood, the wait until marriage, the wait until we have saved up for the things we want. But it is worth the wait, even if the culture around us says no.

And **the season of waiting teaches us about all that.** Advent is the season of the expectant mother Mary. She couldn't do a thing to make the gestation of that Child go any faster; she couldn't induce his birth any sooner. But he was—is—worth the wait. And the time of waiting is a specially graced time of preparing the way of the Lord. There is a lot to be done to get ready.

So, is it violating my own principle in talking about Christmas in November? Perhaps so. But perhaps this is the time to get ready. On the Feast of Christ the King, we can contemplate the coming of our King; we can meditate on why his Kingdom is worth waiting for. And preparing for. The Psalmist teaches us "Be stronghearted and wait for the Lord!"

—Father Kessler

Even Bad Guys Have Coveted this Adoration!

The painting on the cover of today's bulletin has a context. It is just one panel of the polyptych, a kind of case made up of painted panels placed on a frame with two hinged doors that open in the center. Below you can see the polyptych known as the Adoration of the Mystic Lamb, painted by Jan van Eyck and his brother Hubert, and now located in a church in Ghent Belgium.



With the doors closed we see 24 paintings, with the middle range showing the Archangel Gabriel announcing to Mary the coming of her son.

When the doors are opened, we are presented with an altarpiece that measures 11 x 15 feet and contains 24 more paintings.

In the lower range, in the center, is the worship of the



Lamb of God, who is bleeding his precious blood into a chalice. He is surrounded by worshipful angels and, at the sides, myriad saints. Above, at the sides are Adam and Eve; closer in are Mary and John the Baptist; in the center is the enthroned "almighty God." Art critics debate whether this is God the Father or God the Son. He has a pope's crown, but is presented as a young man. This leads us to put this image on the bulletin as Christ the King.

This painting has long been treasured as one of the greatest paintings of Christian art, in a class with Michelangelo's paintings in the Sistine Chapel. Close examination and prayerful study of van

Eyck's masterpiece on several wonderful websites can be a dazzling pleasure. It can also be an opener to prayer.

But it isn't just faith-filled Catholics who have been attracted to this work. In the early 19th century, Napoleon Bonaparte determined after his conquest of Belgium that these would make valuable trophies of war. After the defeat of this imperial extravaganza, the altarpiece was returned to the altar in the side chapel in the church of St Bavo in Ghent.

In the First World War, conquering Germans made away with this treasure yet again. And again it was returned after that war.

The Second World War opened still more ravenous marauding. The Nazi perspective was that great works by Flemish Belgians were part of the Germanic heritage, and the altarpiece was planned to be a major prize for the projected House of Teutonic Art in Hitler's hometown of Linz. As the German army was commanded to fight in a scorched earth retreat, Hitler ordered this, among thousands of other treasures, to be stored in the relative safety of a vast salt mine near the German border. As defeat became inevitable, he further ordered the mine to be exploded by bombs which would prevent recovery by his "degenerate" Allied enemies. The story of the dramatic last minute recovery of this work is among the highlights of the success portrayed in the recent film, *The Monument Men*.

—Father Kessler

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