

Lancaster St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary Parishes



the Preaching of St John the Baptist

“A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.’
And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”
From today’s holy Gospel

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

St Bernadette Parish.

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

[st bernadette . parish . net](http://stbernadette.parish.net)

St Mary Parish.

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

cover picture: **The Preaching of St John the Baptist**

a fresco painted (between 1486 and 1490) by Domenico Ghirlandaio (1449–1494)
in the Tornabuoni Chapel, Firenze, Italy

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

Ben Factor b_factor@lanaster.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.

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at both parishes

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Saint Bernadette School is at

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www.stbernadetteschool.com

Bremen St Vincent de Paul Society (740) 569-7738

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 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, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heaven wisdom grant us admittance to his company. 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 December the Pope Asks Us to Pray

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, Dec 10,	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85
2nd Sunday Advent	2 Peter 3:8-14	Mark 1:1-8
Mon, Dec 11	Isaiah 35:1-10 Saint Damasus I, pope	Psalm 85 Luke 5:17-26
Tues, Dec 12	Zechariah 2:14-17 Our Lady of Guadalupe	Judith 13 Luke 1:26-38
Weds, Dec 13	Isaiah 40:25-31 Saint Lucy, virgin & martyr	Psalm 103 Matt 11:28-30
Thurs, Dec 14	Isaiah 41:13-20 Saint John of the Cross, priest & doctor of the Church	Psalm 145 Matt 11:11-15
Fri, Dec 15	Isaiah 48:17-19	Psalm 1 Matt 11:16-19
Sat, Dec 16	Sirach 48:1-11	Psalm 80 Matt 17:9-13
Sunday, Dec 17,	Isaiah 61:1-11	Luke 1
3rd Sunday Advent	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-28

Mass Intentions This Week

Monday, Dec 11	8:20 AM	Tom Young	at St Bernadette
Tuesday, Dec 12	8:20 AM	Caroline Kilbarger Wascisin	at Bremen St Mary
Wednesday, Dec 13	8:20 AM	Showman & Spizzirri families	at St Bernadette
Thursday, Dec 14	6 PM	Tommy Hartung	at St Bernadette
Friday, Dec 15	8:20 AM	Thomas Grabowski	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 one Gospel of Saint Luke. Father Kessler is leading these Advent reflections (with some gorgeous illustrations!) on Mondays, Dec 11 and 18, from 7-8:30 PM.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others – educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Thank you for your generous donation today.

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 **still** 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. Let Fr Kessler of your interest.

Catholic Foundation News

Giving becomes convenient and personal with a Donor Advised Fund, which offers a **hands-on approach to philanthropy**. This fund invests your charitable gift to grow tax-free for future giving. It lets you make contributions to multiple Catholic or public organizations from one account, and it can be set up with as little as \$5,000. It is convenient and flexible, with these key benefits:

- Immediate tax deduction with the option of deferred charitable distribution
- Consolidates your charitable giving, providing administrative convenience
- Flexibility to choose multiple grant recipients
- Ability to add to the fund at any time
- Make donations anonymously, if desired

- Wish to create a family legacy of faith – name your children, grandchildren or other loved ones as successor advisors to the fund

Generosity and acts of charity are family traits. You are encouraged to engage all generations of your family in your giving. For information contact Scott Hartman at The Catholic Foundation at (614) 443-8893 or shartman @ catholic-foundation . org.

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.

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.

Ministry at Mass at St Mary

8:30 AM Sunday Mass	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Dec 10	Linda Qualls	Brooke Holt, Jillian Wilkinson	Neil Boch, Wyatt Borah, Tyna Schmelzer-Fox	Catherine Noll, April Schmelzer	Joe Young
Dec 17	Jeanne Schmelzer	Reagan Conrad, Charles Schoenlaub	Leo Kunkler Sr, Pam Redding, Jim Schmelzer	Maurice Schmelzer family	Jim Schmelzer

at St Bernadette Parish

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

Very Newly Baptized!

Welcome and pray for St Bernadette's newest Christian, **Brantley Thomas Morgan**, son of Kathleen Morgan, who was baptized on Friday, Dec 1.

Blood Drive Thank You

Thanks to all who donated blood at our St Bernadette drive on Dec 2. And thanks to our friends at Redeemer Lutheran Church who helped us relocate at the last minute. We collected 34 units of blood which can save up to 102 lives. During the busy Advent season, please consider blood donation to help others. Central Ohio uses about 800 units of blood every day. Our next drive will be in May.

Friends Forever

The next Friends Forever gathering happens on Thursday, Dec 21, at noon at St Bernadette. This is a **lunch time gathering** on a Thursday each month for **seasoned citizens**. Everyone is welcome. For details about the Advent Pot Luck, call Ann Essman at (740) 654-1893.

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 questions.

St Bernadette Midnight Mass

Midnight Mass is a beautiful tradition of **welcoming our Lord's birth in the "wee hours" of the morning**. St Bernadette is a parish that maintains the tradition of a Mass at Midnight. The Choir, joined by a brass ensemble, will begin with a vigil at 11:30 featuring a variety of Christmas carols. Consider starting a **new tradition in your family** by welcoming Jesus with us at Midnight Mass.

Ministry at Mass at St Bernadette

Dec 10-17	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion
Saturday Dec 9 4 PM	Bob Christy	Samantha Kerns, Joey Mannella, Carley Matson	Angie Christy, Marguerite Grimm, Susan Garrett, Sandy Landefeld, Jim & Becky Kuhn
Sunday Dec 10 11 AM	Amy Woo	Diana & Sarah Woo, Brennan Quaintance	Jean Robertson, David Shonk, Anna Sevigny, Becky Wickham, John & Teresa Hartig
Monday 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Isabelle Lazar, Kyndra Nagle	Patricia Dreyer, Kathy Kehnast
Weds 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Morgan Cox, Daschel Neighbor	Angie Christy, Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Olivia Reynolds, Amelia Robertson	Lee Guinan, Paul Lonergan
Friday 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Silus Hopkins, Hyde O'Rielley	Rita Merk, Mary Jane Vajen
Saturday Dec 16 4 PM	Becky Kuhn	Kendall Cox, Becca Fuller, Addy Myers	Rosalie DeFillippo, Lee Guinan, Pat Gins, Kathy Kehnast, Joyce Guenther, Denise McGuire
Sunday Dec 17 11 AM	Terry Carpenter	Logan & Tori Loy, Daniel Turner	Tara Craaybeek, Jim & Rita Merk, Pat Dreyer, Ben Peters, Nancy Griffith

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.

Here and There

EWTN Advent & Christmas Programming

EWTN brings you live Christmas Eve and Christmas Day **Masses from Rome and the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, DC**. They will air inspiring musical performances, specials for children and teens, and new holiday presentations for all the family. Watch or listen to EWTN TV & Radio on your

local channel, online, or on your smartphone. For information, go to ewtn.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 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 Josephinum. Mr Heyer owns a classical architecture studio located in Bexley, and he recently completed the restoration of the seminary main 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 W. Town St, 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 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 Campbell on Friday, Feb 2—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.

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 @ stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.org or register online at www.stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.com by Monday, Dec 11.

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. Go to www.columbuscatholic.org/natural-family-planning or contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560.

Make the Holy Season Holy

Advent and Penance

We have Confession

- on Thursday at 5:30 on Saturday at 3 at St Bernadette and
- on Sunday at 8 AM at St Mary.

That's all year round because it is an all-year-round sacrament. To teach this lesson, we have increased 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!

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.

Remaining Advent Penance Services			
St Bernadette	Sunday	Dec 10	3 PM
Circleville St Joseph	Sunday	Dec 10	4 PM
Logan St John School	Tuesday	Dec 12	10:30 AM
Lancaster St Mark	Tuesday	Dec 12	7 PM
St Bernadette School	Thursday	Dec 14	8:30 AM
Fisher Catholic HS	Thursday	Dec 14	1 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

Weekly Confessions & Weekday Mass							
But these times sometimes change, so be sure to call ahead!							
parish	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	penance
Bremen St Mary	8:20 AM						8 AM Sun
Lancaster St Bernadette	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	9 AM on 1st Sat	5:30 Thu, 3 Sat, 8:30 on 1st Sat
Lancaster St Mary	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM			4 Sat
Lancaster St Mark	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM		5:30 Sat
Sugar Grove St Joseph	VARIES	NOON	7 PM	NOON	NOON		½ hour before Mass
Circleville St Joseph	9 AM	7 PM	9 AM		9 AM		4 Sat
Logan St John	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM	4 Sat
Fisher Catholic HS						2:40 PM on Fri	2 on 1 st Fri

Intercessory Prayer List for December of 2017

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

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

Parishioners have also asked that we pray:

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

Please contact the parish office at 654-1893 or stbernaparish@yahoo.com to keep this list current.

This quiet season and what you can do about it

These Church seasons of ours each have a distinctive meaning. And they have been given us by the Church over the centuries to help us become more deeply involved in the mystery of the Faith. At Advent, the mystery is the coming—the comings—of the Lord. The special expectancy of the coming way back when, at Bethlehem, takes up the last days of Advent. But the season begins with an awareness of the coming in glory, at the end of time, to judge the living and the dead, to usher in the life of the world to come. We start the season with the global picture and conclude by reflecting on the much more particular coming of the Lord, at a certain time and place, which began the great event of our salvation and which has changed everything and made possible our participation in the eternal life of God.

Advent is not just a curiosity. It doesn't have to be a way Catholics have of taking the fun out of Christmas. It is a season of quiet reflection on the mystery of the coming of the Lord. It is a season when the whole Church has the disciplined waiting of an expectant family waiting for a new birth.

It is a funny thing, the way the global expectation of the beginning of Advent, the beginning of the new liturgical year, segues naturally the end of the old year, with its pictures of All the Saints in glory and Christ the King in glory. The readings from the parts of the gospels just before the end of Jesus' earthly ministry remind us of the attention that we need to pay to Jesus' teaching about the end times.

To think about what his coming in glory means, read these few lines from today's liturgy:

from the Old Testament reading—

Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah:
Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm;
here is his reward with him, his recompense before him.
Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs,
carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

from the response Psalm—

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

from the Epistle—

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar
and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

from the Gospel—

And this is what he proclaimed:
"One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.
I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

This is not "you'd better watch out, you'd better not pout" stuff. And it is more than just a general "Jesus is the reason for the season." It isn't a "birthday of baby Jesus" message. Don't misunderstand: pouting *is* a bad thing; Jesus *is* what it is all about; and *he really was born*, perhaps on a cold winter's night, and laid in a manger. And there is a true and very useful message in the stories of Rudolf and the little drummer boy. But we owe it to ourselves — and to our children — not to shortchange Advent. **We keep Christ in Christmas best when we ponder the mystery, in quiet but eager expectancy.**

So, what are you going to do for Advent? There are only two weeks left in it, you know. I have a friend who says he "goes on the wagon" every Advent. He doesn't drink so much that it is difficult for him. But it does require an effort during a party season when there is a lot of spiked egg nog and Christmas cheer and the like around. His perspective is that he needs to keep alert to the full meaning of the season. I know he will have a drink on Christmas and on the days thereafter; that's the time for celebrating, just as Advent is **the time for pondering and preparing one's life**. It isn't self-denial so much as it is **alertness training**.

Another friend tries to go to Mass (almost) every day, aware that the Advent liturgies are especially rich. Still another reads the book of **Isaiah, the Advent prophet**, through slowly, a little bit each day (in the Bible at my desk that book takes up 52 pages, which adds up to just about four pages a day for the remainder of this season). And then there is charity: A person could set aside a small amount each day for the diocesan charities collection on Christmas. Maybe you could.

There are plenty more ways we could make this a season of preparing for the coming of the Kingdom ... that Jesus has promised is coming. 'Tis the season to prepare for his coming.

— Father Kessler

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