

# Lancaster St Bernadette Parish Bremen St Mary Parish



## **Sacrifice of Noah after the Flood**

*A theme of today's Liturgy of the Word*

**February 18, 2018  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

## St Bernadette Parish.

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

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

cover picture: **Sacrifice of Noah after the Flood**

Painted in watercolor (ca 1896–1902) by James Tissot (1836-1902)

the Jewish Museum, New York

## St Mary Parish.

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

### our parishes

**Father Thomas Kessler** (614) 634 • 0499 [wnthomaskessler @ icloud.com](mailto:wnthomaskessler@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: 9 AM-1 PM, MWThF; 11 AM-1 PM, Tu.

1343 Wheeling Rd NE, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701

(740) 654 • 1893

[http://stbernadetteparish . net](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: 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 Stafford** (740) 808 • 7294 [maristellaspirt @ gmail . com](mailto:maristellaspirt@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)

Bremen St Vincent de Paul

(740) 569-7738

Lancaster St Vincent de Paul

[www . svdplancasteroh . com](http://www.svdplancasteroh.com)

Diocese of Columbus

[www . columbuscatholic . org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org)

Angels Nurture & Disciple (AND)

[www angelsAND . org](http://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. The next session is scheduled for the Spring. 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.



## at Prayer with the Church

### At Mass this Sunday the Church Prays

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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 February, the Pope Asks Us to Pray

That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

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

Feb 18 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent	Genesis 9:8-15	Ps 25 1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:12-15
Feb 19, Mon	Leviticus 19:1-18	Ps 19	Matt 25:31-46
Feb 20, Tues	Isaiah 55:10-11	Ps 34	Matt 6:7-15
Feb 21, Wed <i>St Peter Damian, bishop &amp; doctor of the Church</i>	Jonah 3:1-10	Ps 51	Luke 11:29-32
Feb 22, Thurs <i>Chair of Peter the Apostle</i>	1 Peter 5:1-4	Ps 23	Matt 16:13-19
Feb 23, Fri <i>Saint Polycarp, bishop &amp; martyr</i>	Ezekiel 18:21-28	Ps 130	Matt 5:20-26
Feb 24, Sat	Deut 26:16-19	Ps 119	Matt 5:43-48
Feb 25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	Genesis 22:1-18	Ps 116 Romans 8:31-34	Mark 9:2-10

### Mass Intentions This Week

Monday, Feb 19 8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Ruth Rice
Tuesday, Feb 20 8:20 AM	at Bremen St Mary	Tom Kunkler
Wednesday, Feb 21 8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Leon Sevigny
Thursday, Feb 22 6 PM	at St Bernadette	Paul Gallagher
Friday, Feb 23 8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Mary Lou Beiter

## the holy season of Lent

### Fast and Abstinence

During Lent, Catholics in the United States

- **abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays** of Lent.  
Catholics 14 and older are bound by the law of abstinence;
- **fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.** That means we eat only one full meal on those days; one or two smaller meals may be taken those days, but may not total one full meal. And no eating between meals.

All adults are bound by the law of fast until they are 59.

Pastors and parents are to see to it that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated in an authentic sense of penance.

### Rice Bowl

This year's theme for Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl is "**Encounter Lent.**" This Lent, we answer the call to serve the "least of our brothers and sisters" through Rice Bowl. It offers Catholics in the US a way to connect with our brothers and sisters around the world. This Lent, CRS invites us to **pray** with our families, **fast** in solidarity with those who hunger, learn about the challenges of poverty overseas, and **give sacrificial contributions** for those in need. Visit

the Rice Bowl website at <http://orb.crs.org>. Join our parishes, and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States, in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl, and during the 40 days of Lent, as companions on the journey, we will encounter our neighbor.

### Way of the Cross — aka Stations

On all the Fridays of Lent at 7 PM, St Mary and St Bernadette parishes will both pray the Way of the Cross, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. You could join in. And bring your kids. There are few better ways for them to learn the mystery of the Cross. And for you to let it sink in.

### Sunday Mornings in Lent

You are invited to view the acclaimed film series "**Catholicism**" facilitated by Deacon Mark Scarpitti on the Sundays of Lent at 9:30 AM in the Mary Good Center. Each episode will last about an hour and conclude in time for 11 AM Mass. Journey with acclaimed author and theologian **Bishop Robert Barron** to more than 15 countries. Be illuminated by the spiritual and artistic treasures of this global culture that claims more than one billion of the earth's people.

**The series will begin on Sunday, Feb 18, and continue through the Sundays of Lent, and on into the Easter season.**

### Fish Fry

- Lancaster **Knights of Columbus** will fry fish on the Fridays of Lent (Feb 23, and Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30). Cost (for the fish, not the Stations) for adults is \$8 and for children is \$6. The Kof C hall is at 343 East Walnut Street.

- **Bremen St Mary Parish** will fry some fish on Friday Mar 23. They will accept a donation for the food pantry.

After the fish, come to St Bernadette or Bremen St Mary for the Stations of the Cross.

### Lenten Penance Services

Lent is definitely the time to come to—or to come back to—the Sacrament of Penance. If you seek to be renewed in baptismal grace (which is, after all, what Lent is all about) this is the way to do that. Here are some local penance services:

Lancaster	St Mary	Thursday	Mar 1	7 PM
Logan	St John	Monday	Mar 5	7 PM
Lancaster	St Bernadette	Sunday	Mar 11	3 PM
Sugar Grove	St Joseph	Tuesday	Mar 13	7 PM
Circleville	St Joseph	Sunday	Mar 18	4 PM
Bremen	St Mary	Sunday	Mar 18	3 PM
Lancaster	St Mark	Tuesday	Mar 20	7 PM

### Lenten Journey towards Easter

A few years back **Pope Benedict had this to say** about the beginning of the Church's "**Lenten journey towards Easter.**"

The Christian life is itself a constant journey of conversion and renewal in the company of the Lord, as we follow him along the path that leads through the Cross to the joy of the Resurrection. **The primary way by which we follow Christ is by the liturgy**, in which his person and his saving power become present and effective in our lives. In the Lenten liturgy, as we accompany the catechumens preparing for Baptism, we open our hearts anew to the grace of our rebirth in Christ. This spiritual journey is traditionally marked by the practice of **fasting, almsgiving and prayer**. The Fathers of the Church teach that these three pious exercises are closely related: indeed, Saint Augustine calls fasting and almsgiving the "**wings of prayer**", since they prepare our hearts to take flight and seek the things of heaven, where Christ has prepared a place for us. As this Lent begins, let us accept Christ's invitation to follow him more

closely, renew our commitment to conversion and prayer, and look forward to celebrating the Resurrection in joy and newness of life.

## at Both Parishes

### Black and Indian Missions

The 134-year-old National Collection for Black and Indian people continues as the embodiment of the Church's concern for helping impoverished communities among the Black, Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut peoples in our country. Devoted clergy, religious, and laity work tirelessly in parishes, missions and reservations **to bring the light of Christ** to them. The funds are distributed as grants to dioceses throughout the United States, supporting and strengthening evangelization programs which otherwise would cease. Please give generously to this appeal at Mass today.

### Catholic Times

It's not too late. You can still sign up for *Catholic Times*. For a minimum donation of only \$17 (less than 39 cents per issue), Catholic news from the diocese and around the world will be delivered right to your mailbox. Use the envelope provided in your February packet, or simply write your name and "*Catholic Times*" on a plain envelope, make your check payable to the parish, and drop it into the collection basket. Bishop Campbell encourages all Catholic households in the diocese to receive and read our diocesan newspaper, the *Catholic Times* as **an evangelization tool**. You need the *Catholic Times* to keep up on all the news throughout the diocese and the Catholic world.

### Lancaster St Vincent de Paul

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).

### Give at Mass Every Week (or Every Month)

In St Bernadette Parish you could use **Electronic Funds Transfer** as a way to stabilize the level of your financial support. This helps the parish's cash flow by preventing unintended seasonal ebb and flow from your commitment to support the parish. Contact Steve Karnes in the parish office for details.

## 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

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, Feb 18, at 8:30 AM</b>	Joe Young	Carly Kunkler, Nicole Terry	Wyatt Borah, Tyna Schmelzer-Fox, Cathy Young	Catherine Noll, April Schmelzer	Joe Young
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent, Feb 25, at 8:30 AM</b>	Susan Foltz	Reagan Conrad, Charles Schoenlaub	Susan Foltz, Leo Kunkler Sr, Pam Redding	Nick Schmelzer family	Chris Redding

## at St Bernadette Parish

### Assistance with Tuition

You want to send your children to a fine Catholic school like St Bernadette, St Mary's middle school, or Fisher Catholic High School, but you wonder about the cost? Assistance is available. To be considered for the Diocese of Columbus **tuition assistance program**, you must be registered in your parish and be a supportive member. And then you need to register in the school by Mar 15. The diocese can only accept online applications ([www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com)). The application must be submitted by Mar 15; supporting documentation must be postmarked by Mar 15. Verification of application must be completed within 14 days from application submission. (Be sure to file early in case additional documentation is required.) Payment of the \$30 application fee must accompany the application, but only one application per family is required. Required documents are **current year W2 and previous year federal tax return** or if you do not receive a W2, then previous year & current year Federal Tax Returns. There is help out there!

### Scholarship Available

The Brenda Jo Laihr Galbraith **Nursing Scholarship** & The Karen Louise Laihr **Teaching Scholarship** is available through The Catholic Foundation. Requirements are as follows:

- Must be a graduating high school student from the diocese.
- Must provide a letter of nomination from a parish leader, such as clergy or youth minister
- After reviewing the biography, students must submit an essay answering the following two questions in 350 words or less: In what ways can you apply these Christ-like characteristics in describing your daily life today, and how will you put them to use in the vocation of nursing or teaching?
- Demonstration without financial prejudice that the scholarship will most enable the student to realize his/her vocation may be considered in close decisions

### St Bernadette Tuition Assistance

#### Ed Choice Expansion Scholarship.

Students, meeting the income eligibility (ie: family of 4 < \$50,200) can attend St. Bernadette School next fall at no cost to parents, thanks to 8000 vouchers available from the Ohio Department of Education. Scholarships are available for kindergartners, first, second, third, fourth and fifth graders. This is an extraordinary opportunity for single parents, one-income homes, fixed-income households, and working families. We encourage every family to explore this possibility. And please share the information with family and friends. Call or stop by the school office.

#### Diocesan Tuition Assistance.

Applications must be completed on-line at [www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com). File your 2017 taxes early, because that information is required on your application. All applications must be submitted and verified by Mar 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Local Assistance.

You must complete the diocesan application to be eligible for any local assistance. Local assistance will be awarded based on the prioritized list generated by the diocese. (This does not refer to your parish subsidy.)

## St Bernadette School Registration

St Bernadette School announces some important dates:

- **Now registering students** for the 2018-2019 school year, grades preschool through 5<sup>th</sup>. Private tours and classroom observations are available at any time.
- **Sunday, Feb 25, Open House** from NOON to 2 PM. Tour the building, meet the staff, and receive registration and financial assistance information.

The **preschool program** offers a progressive learning approach, and kindergarten-readiness goals, within a flexible schedule.

**Elementary grades** (full-day kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) offer a highly respected program of academic excellence and positive experiences.

**St Bernadette Catholic School ... celebrating Christ's love ... feel the difference the moment you walk through the doors!**

For information, call the school office at (740) 654-3137.

## Listen in Lent

Try something new this Lent and consider listening to Catholic Radio AM 820. Listening to AM 820 is **a good way to deepen your knowledge and love of the Catholic faith.**

## Ministry at Mass at St Bernadette

25	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion
<b>Saturday, Feb 17, at 4 PM Vigil of 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	Becky Kuhn	Kendall Cox, Brianna Hilyard, Carley Matson	Rosalie DeFillippo Marguerite Grimm Jim Kuhn Denise McGuire Craig Shaw Kathy Wagner
<b>Feb 18, at 11 AM 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	Sandy Landefeld	Samantha Kerns, Brooke & Bryson Vogel	Terry Carpenter Nancy Griffith John & Teresa Hartig David Shonk Mary Jane Vajen
<b>Monday, 8:20 AM</b>	Mary Jane Vajen	Isabelle Lazar Kyndra Nagle	Pat Dreyer Kathy Kehnast
<b>Wednesday, 8:20 AM</b>	Bob Christy	Daschel Neighbor Amelia Robertson	Angie Christy Mary Jane Vajen
<b>Thursday, 6 PM</b>	Kathy Kehnast	Silus Hopkins Hyde O'Rielley	Lee Guinan Paul Lonergan
<b>Friday, 8:20 AM</b>	Jim Merk	Morgan Cox Olivia Reynolds	Rita Merk Mary Jane Vajen
<b>Saturday, Feb 24, at 4 PM Vigil of 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	Amy Woo	Becca Fuller, Diana & Sarah Woo	Bob & Angie Christy Joyce Guenther Lee Guinan Kathy Kehnast Teresa Scarpitti
<b>Feb 25, at 11 AM 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	Jim Merk	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Tara Craaybeek Pat Gins Rita Merk Ben Peters Mary Jane Vajen Becky Wickham

## Here and There

### A Lenten Retreat: Contemplatives in the World

The Franciscan Sisters TOR invite you to be spiritually enriched during this special season in the Church at their Lenten retreat on Saturday, Mar 10, from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. The retreat includes Mass, adoration, lunch, talks, and testimonies and happens at Our Lady of

Sorrows Monastery in Toronto, Ohio. Registration is required by Thursday, March 1, and space is limited. Suggested donation is \$25. Register online at [www.franciscansisterstor.org/lenten-retreat-2018/](http://www.franciscansisterstor.org/lenten-retreat-2018/) or call (740) 544-5542 ext 115.

## Share the Journey Migration Campaign

Pope Francis has launched Share the Journey, a global campaign **to support migrants and refugees** around the world. The U S bishops are asking Catholics around the country to join the campaign at [www.sharejourney.org](http://www.sharejourney.org).

## Responding to the Sin of Racism

"Racism is **a sin that divides the human family**, blots out the image of God among specific members of that family..." (Brothers and Sisters to Us, U.S. Catholic Bishops). For resources, visit [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism).

## Pilgrimage to Lourdes

On this 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions at Lourdes, Fr Michael Dosch op, from St Gertrude Parish in Cincinnati (until recently at St Patrick in Columbus), invites you to join him on the 64<sup>th</sup> US **National Rosary Pilgrimage to Lourdes** from July 2-11. This pilgrimage, which departs from Cincinnati, is **accompanied by a medical staff** to meet the needs of the pilgrims. For information, contact Fr Michael at [michael.dosch@juno.com](mailto:michael.dosch@juno.com) or contact the Catholic Travel Office toll free at 1-877-276-7279 or [lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net](mailto:lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net). Their website is [lourdespilgrimage.com](http://lourdespilgrimage.com). The reservation deadline is Mar 30.

## in the Diocese of Columbus

### 40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life extends to Mar 25. This **peaceful prayer vigil** will take place at an abortion facility in Columbus. Participants are asked to volunteer for one-hour shifts and sign a statement of peace. For details, visit [www.40daysforlife.com/columbus](http://www.40daysforlife.com/columbus).

### Bid O'Luck at Fisher Catholic High School

Donations are being gathered for the **Bid O'Luck dinner auction** happening on Saturday, Apr 28, with the theme of **Saturday Night Irish Fever**. Not sure you have anything fabulous to donate? Give cash, and let the committee shop for you. Goods and services are wanted for the silent and grand auctions. Contact Milea Quaintance at (740) 689-3288. A limited number of Bid O'Luck **raffle tickets** are on sale at \$100/ticket for a chance at one \$7,500 prize and five \$500 prizes. Contact Kellie Shonk at [keshonk@cducation.org](mailto:keshonk@cducation.org) or (740) 654-1231.

### Spirit of Hope Gala

Catholic Social Services presents the Spirit of Hope Gala on Saturday, Mar 3, from 6:30 to 10:30 PM at St Charles Preparatory School in Columbus. The annual event benefits Catholic Social Services' **14 programs that help poor and vulnerable seniors and families**. To purchase tickets or to sponsor, visit [www.colssc.org](http://www.colssc.org) or contact (614) 857-1236.

### Opiate Addiction Epidemic Resources

For a list of **resources and suggestions** for families, schools, and parishes to respond to the opiate addiction epidemic in

Ohio, visit [www.columbuscatholic.org/drug-awareness](http://www.columbuscatholic.org/drug-awareness) or contact the Social Concerns office at (614) 241-2540.

## A Conference for Catholic Youth

Catholic teens in the Diocese are invited to a day of music, inspiration, making new friends, and celebrating our Catholic faith with Bishop Campbell. The DCYC is the official Catholic conference of the diocese for grades 9-12. The DCYC will be hosted by St Cecilia Parish, Columbus, from 9 AM- 9 PM on Saturday, Mar 3; the theme is **Rise to Joy**. Bishop Campbell and Bob Rice are keynote presenters. There will be workshops, the sacrament of Reconciliation, and small group discussions. High school students should register through their parish youth ministry leader or DRE. A charge of \$50 will cover lunch, dinner, and a t-shirt. For information, visit <https://columbuscatholic.org/dcyc>.

## Talking about Walking with Purpose

Attend a lecture and reception with **Lisa Brenninkmeyer**, author of the *Walking with Purpose* women's bible studies, at St John Neumann Parish in Sunbury on Wednesday, Mar 14, at 10 AM or 7 PM. Registration is available at <http://www.saintjohnsunbury.org>. Tickets are \$15 per person. Contact Christina Weber, director of marriage & family life at St John Neumann, with questions at [cweber.saintjohn@gmail.com](mailto:cweber.saintjohn@gmail.com).

## Called to Serve One Another

Sts Peter and Paul Retreat Center has launched a **capital campaign** to support updates and continued improvements of the retreat center. Funds raised will provide an efficient space to serve the faith communities which enter the doors. Learn more at [www.stpeterandpaulretreatcenter.com](http://www.stpeterandpaulretreatcenter.com) or (740) 928-4246.

## Religious Freedom in Crisis

The Theological Consortium of greater Columbus presents the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Lecture on World Religions and Interreligious Relations on Thursday, Mar 8, at 7 PM at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus. Dr Thomas Farr, president of the Religious Freedom Institute, speaks on *The Crisis of Religious Freedom in America and Abroad: How it Affects Us All*. Reservations not required; for information visit [pcj.edu](http://pcj.edu) or call (614) 985-2274.

## Men's Conference

You won't want to miss the entertainment, displays, and fellowship with a thousand or two of the most interesting people in central Ohio. Bishop Campbell will celebrate Mass and many priests of the diocese will provide opportunities for penance. Men will meet at the Ohio Expo Center at the Ohio fairsgrounds in Columbus on **Feb 24**. Their theme is "**Cast Your Nets... Become Fishers of Men**" and speakers are Jeff Cavins, Dr Scott Hahn, and Chris Stefanick.

## Marriage Encounter Weekend

Come to a Marriage Encounter Weekend and learn ways to **use your marriage's ups and downs to deepen your love** for each other and for God. For information about a weekend, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www.wmcecolumbus.org](http://www.wmcecolumbus.org).

## Foundation Scholarships

The Catholic Foundation's **applications for scholarships** closes on Mar 9. Scholarships support promising and deserving students by assisting them with the costs of their education. Donors often establish a scholarship to honor or memorialize friends, teachers, family members, or other loved ones. Since 2007, The Catholic Foundation has awarded over \$430,000 in scholarships empowering over 100 young people to continue their academic and vocational studies. For information and to apply, visit [www.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships](http://www.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships). If you are interested in **opening a Scholarship Fund of your own**, contact Scott Hartman at [shartman@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:shartman@catholic-foundation.org) or (614) 443-8893.

## Charismatic Retreat

You are invited to the annual **Catholic Charismatic Men & Women's Retreat** on Mar 16-18 at the St Therese Retreat Center. Walter Matthews (executive director of the National Catholic Charismatic Renewal) will be retreat director speaking on "**Reflections on our Journey of Faith.**" Register on line at [ccrcolumbus.org](http://ccrcolumbus.org); for information call Karyl Pulsinelli at (614) 736-2783.

Weekly Confessions & Weekday Mass							
But these times sometimes change, so be sure to call ahead!							
parish	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Penance
<b>Bremen St Mary</b>		<b>8:20 AM</b>					<b>8 AM Sun</b>
<b>Lancaster St Bernadette</b>	<b>8:20 AM</b>		<b>8:20 AM</b>	<b>6 PM</b>	<b>8:20 AM</b>	9 on 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat	<b>5:30 PM Thu,</b> <b>3 PM Sat,</b> 8:30 AM on 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat
<i>Lancaster St Mary</i>	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM			4 PM Sat
<i>Lancaster St Mark</i>	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM		5:30 PM Sat
<i>Sugar Grove St Joseph</i>	VARIES	NOON	7 AM	NOON	NOON		½ hour before Mass
<i>Circleville St Joseph</i>	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		9 AM		4 PM Sat
<i>Logan St John</i>	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM	4 PM Sat
<i>Fisher Catholic HS</i>					2:40 PM		2 PM on 1 <sup>st</sup> Fri

# Observe Lent Faithfully!

# Self-Giving Love: a Refreshing Teaching on Human Sexuality

## Part Two

By Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of the Diocese of Phoenix

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Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body is a fresh re-presenting of the Church's teaching on the gift of human sexuality and the mission of married couples. It lays out more clearly and persuasively what Paul VI taught in *Humanae Vitae*, while rooting the presentation in a richer biblical context.

Marriage, says John Paul II, is a visible image of the love of the divine persons of the Blessed Trinity, the dynamic love between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is also a sign of Christ's love for the Church, His spouse. It mirrors the love of Christ on the Cross (I John 3:16), "The way we came to understand love was that He laid down His life for us." Certainly, every marriage here on earth is between two imperfect persons who stand in constant need of God's mercy, but it is in their marital embrace, in their fidelity and in the care of their children that the reality of God's love is revealed.

### Two meanings inseparably joined

Through the marriage bond, God creates a communion of persons within which new life is brought forth as the fruit of conjugal love. This is God's plan from the beginning. In other words, the two primary meanings of the marital embrace are joined together: the unitive meaning and the procreative meaning. The procreative meaning is that which is fulfilled in the blessing of children and the unitive meaning is that which comes from communion in love.

These two meanings (or ends) of marriage (the life-giving and the love-giving) are so bound together that the marriage itself is gravely harmed, should they ever be divided. More importantly, when both ends are embraced and lived to the full, abundant good comes to the family and to the larger society. Abundant good is always the fruit of obedience to God's plan for our lives.

### Totally yours

On the other hand, married love is not true to itself unless it remains open to new life. It must be both unitive and procreative, not either/or but both/and. Why? Because authentic love gives all. We hear this language of totality in the greatest of the commandments when Jesus says: "**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.**" To love as Jesus loves is to give everything we are and have, no matter the cost.

In *Humanae Vitae*, #9, Paul VI writes that conjugal love

*"is total; that is, it is a very special form of personal friendship whereby the spouses generously share everything with each other without undue reservations and without concern for their selfish convenience. One who truly loves his spouse not only loves her for what he receives from her but also for her own sake. This he does joyfully, as he enriches his beloved with the gift of himself."*

To love totally in marriage means not withholding the fertile part of being a man or woman; that is, the wife gives all of her femininity and the husband gives all of his masculinity. Should one or both resort to contraception, they would be withdrawing their fertility from the giving. They would not be giving their all. Such action not only makes procreation impossible (preventing cooperation with God in life-giving love) but also damages the bonds of love (harming the love-giving end). It is no surprise that many marriages are weak because of the use of contraception. Every time that a married couple uses contraception they withhold love from one another. The marital embrace then becomes solely focused on pleasure and is not the self-giving, unifying, and potentially fruitful act that God created it to be.

### The blessing of NFP

Does that mean that married couples must have as many children as possible? Not at all. In fact, by God's design the marital embrace cannot always be fertile. The woman's cycle goes through times of both fertility and infertility. In light of this God-given fact, spouses can plan their families by taking into account the fertile or non-fertile times. We call this Natural Family Planning.

When Paul VI issued *Humanae Vitae*, teaching that contraception is seriously sinful, he called for new research to provide couples with improved methods of family planning that were natural, ethical, and healthy. Since then, great advances have been made in understanding natural fertility and developing scientifically validated methods of fertility regulation (commonly known as NFP). Today, these natural methods are as reliable as contraceptives. Simply put, if a woman is not fertile, she cannot become pregnant. More importantly, they are morally good and have no harmful side effects on the woman's health. The use of contraceptives, of course, is always morally evil and many of them have harmful side effects as well.

The personal benefits of NFP make it especially attractive. Natural methods strengthen the harmony and mutual understanding of husband and wife. They lead to a deeper awareness of the blessing of children. They foster respect for nature and for the personal dignity of all persons.

These natural methods are not well known, however. And prejudices about them still abound. Incidentally, NFP is not what many refer to as the rhythm method. There is solid science behind NFP. What makes this not knowing particularly tragic is that ignorance of these natural methods and a widespread contraceptive mentality have led to acts that are directly contrary to marriage and to life itself — acts such as abortion, sterilization, and test-tube fertilization.

Nonetheless, as St. Paul writes, there is no chaining of the word of God. The good news about NFP and the Theology of the Body, and the prophetic wisdom of *Humanae Vitae*, shine forth more convincingly each day. Can we not see the Holy Spirit at work in our midst, lifting up the Gospel of Life?

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