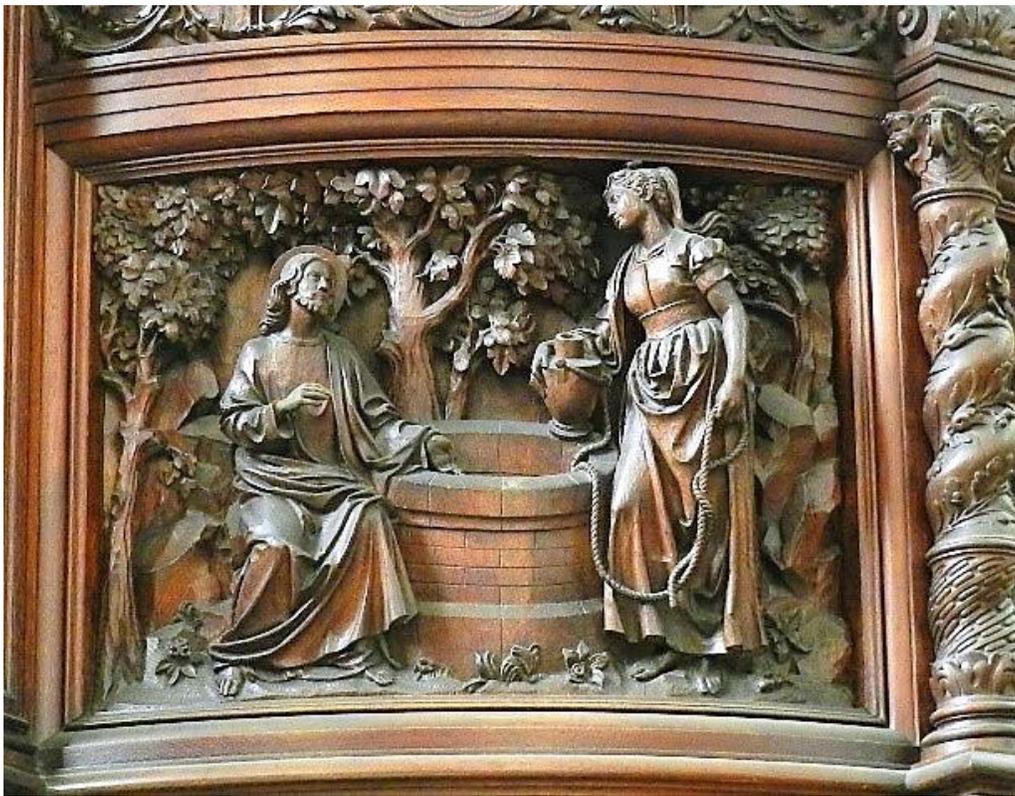


Lancaster St Bernadette Parish Bremen St Mary Parish



Christ's Conversation with the Woman of Samaria

The story of today's gospel reading

the 3rd Sunday in Lent

March 4, 2018

St Bernadette Parish.

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

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

cover picture: **Christ's Conversation with the Woman of Samaria**
a panel carved in wood (1874) by Joannes Baptista de Boeck and Joannes Baptista van Wint
one of five panels around a pulpit, showing scenes from gospel stories

in St Paul Church, Antwerp

St Mary Parish.

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

our parishes

Fr Thomas Kessler (614) 634 • 0499 wthomaskessler@icloud.com
pastor

at St Bernadette Parish

Jeff Carpenter (740) 681 • 9918 carpenter.277@osu.edu
deacon

Mark Scarpitti (740) 438 • 3970 dcn.mark@frontier.com
deacon

Ann Essman (740) 653 • 9347 aessman001@att.net
pastoral minister

Steve Huber (740) 654 • 3137 shuber57@yahoo.com
facilities coordinator

Angie & Kent Kerns (740) 654 • 2588 kwkerns@gmail.com
religious education

Liz Latorre (740) 243 • 1872 lizlatorre@gmail.com
liturgical music

The St Bernadette Parish office is in the Mary Good Center,
across the back parking lot from the school.

Hours: 9 AM-1 PM, MWThF; 11 AM-1 PM, Tu.
1343 Wheeling Rd NE, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701

(740) 654 • 1893

<http://stbernadetteparish.net>

at Bremen St Mary Parish

Ben Factor b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us
liturgical music

Sarah Borah sborah920@gmail.com

The St Mary Parish office is at the church vestibule.

Hours: 9-11 AM, Tuesdays.

602 Marietta St, Bremen, OH 43107 (740) 569 • 7738

at both parishes

Stephen Karnes (740) 654 • 1893 stbernbook@gmail.com
business manager

Kathy Kehnast (740) 654 • 1893 stbernparish@yahoo.com
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Julie & Chase Stalford (740) 808 • 7294 maristellaspirit@gmail.com
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Saint Bernadette School

Pam Eltringham (740) 654 • 3137 peltring@cducation.org
principal

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secretary

Saint Bernadette School is located at

1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701

stbernlan@cducation.org
www.stbernadetteschool.com

Bremen St Vincent de Paul
Lancaster St Vincent de Paul
Diocese of Columbus
Angels Nurture & Disciple (AND)

(740) 569-7738
www.svdplancasteroh.com
www.columbuscatholic.org
www.angelsAND.org

sacramental life

Where

Our parishes are where Catholics worship. We can receive the Anointing of the Sick at any appropriate place from the appropriate minister. The first reception of Eucharist and of Penance as well as the reception of Baptism, Confirmation, and Matrimony may only be **in one's own parish church**, unless with good reason the pastor deems it **necessary** to do otherwise.

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. If you are expecting (or already have) a newborn or if you 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 Sundays at 8 AM.

Every Catholic priest is available whenever there is a need. There are Penance opportunities for St Bernadette 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 Penance at least once a year.

Anointing and Care of the Sick

The priest gives the Anointing of the Sick to one who is 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."
- The priest brings 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 a wedding. Why so long? Because **this sacrament, not just the ceremony, requires serious preparation**. And the Church needs to be involved in that preparation. 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

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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.

Listen to God’s Word and Honor His Saints

Mar 4 3 rd Sunday in Lent	Exodus 17:3-7	Ps 95 1 Corinthians 1:22-25	John 4:5-42
Mar 5, Monday	2 Kings 5:1-15	Ps 42	Luke 4:24-30
Mar 6, Tuesday	Daniel 3:25-43	Ps 25	Matt 18:21-35
Mar 7, Weds <i>Saints Perpetua & Felicity, martyrs</i>	Deuteronomy 4:1-9	Ps 147	Matt 5:17-19
Mar 8, Thursday <i>Saint John of God, religious</i>	Jeremiah 7:23-28	Ps 95	Luke 11:14-23
Mar 9, Friday <i>Saint Frances of Rome, religious</i>	Hosea 14:2-10	Ps 81	Mark 12:28-34
Mar 10, Saturday	Hosea 6:1-6	Ps 51	Luke 18:9-14
Mar 11 4 th Sunday in Lent	1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13	Ps 23 Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41

In March, the Pope Asks Us to Pray ...

that the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

Mass Intentions This Week

Monday,	Mar 5	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Eileen Clark
Tuesday,	Mar 6	8:20 AM	at Bremen St Mary	Hugh Messerly
Wednesday,	Mar 7	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Louise Mathias
Thursday,	Mar 8	6 PM	at St Bernadette	Donna Abbott
Friday,	Mar 9	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	John Simon

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 each Friday during Lent at 7 PM, St Mary and St Bernadette parishes will both each 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 continue through the Sundays of Lent, and on into the Easter season.

Fish to Fry

Thank God it’s Friday! What are you doing about Fridays after work during Lent?

- Lancaster **Knights of Columbus** will fry fish on the Fridays of Lent (Mar 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:

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

at Both Parishes

Catholic Relief Services Collection

Next week, we will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and bring Christ’s love and mercy to all people here at home and abroad. Next week, give generously to the CRSC, and **help Jesus in disguise.** Learn about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Time for Spring Cleaning

The **St Vincent de Paul Society truck** will be at St Bernadette Church to accept your donations of clean clothing and usable household items on Saturday and Sunday, Mar 17 & 18.

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.

Parish Contributions Your Support of the Church in February

St Bernadette	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25	Totals
weekly	6,140	5,547	6,108	4,682	22,477
electronic funds transfer	2,689	176	176	176	3,217
educational support	641	80	225	70	1,016
Catholic Times	294	477	328	59	1,158
Ash Wednesday	20	8	1,031	5	1,064
Gifts	0	0	550	25	575
Total to the parish	9,784	6,288	8,418	5,017	29,507
Black & Indian Missions	25	182	120	25	352
Rice Bowl	500	0	0	0	500
Total beyond the parish	525	182	120	25	852

Bremen St Mary	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25	Totals
weekly	4,545	1,228	1,412	1,105	8,290
Catholic Times	57	88	68	54	267
Ash Wednesday	20	0	65	0	85
Total to the parish	4,622	1,316	1,545	1,159	8,642
Black & Indian Missions	50	25	80	10	165
St Vincent de Paul	698	179	20	145	1,042
Total beyond the parish	748	204	100	155	1,207

at Bremen St Mary Parish

May They Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Charles Schmelzer of Bremen St Mary Parish who died last week, Mary Jane Clouse, nee Schmelzer, and Katherine Curtis, sister of Anna Sevigny.

Ministry at Mass at St Mary

+	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
3rd Sunday in Lent, Mar 4, at 8:30 AM	Paul Kunkler	Brooke Holt, Isaac Schmelzer	Wyatt Borah, Irene Kunkler, Tyna Schmelzer-Fox	Paul Kunkler family	Ralph Mohler
4th Sunday in Lent, Mar 11, at 8:30 AM	Linda Qualls	Alex Schmelzer, Jillian Wilkinson	Neil Boch, Jim Schmelzer, Dismas Schmelzer	John Schoenlaub family	Jim Schmelzer

PSR

Parents of children receiving their First Communion this year should save these dates: First Reconciliation on March 18, and First Communion on April 29.

St Vincent de Paul

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

at St Bernadette Parish

Ministry at Mass at St Bernadette

+	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion
Saturday, Mar 3, at 4 PM Vigil of 3rd Sunday in Lent	Marguerite Grimm	Becca Fuller, Joey Mannella, Addy Myers	Susan Garrett Jim & Becky Kuhn Denise McGuire Brad Rider Kathy Wagner
Sunday, Mar 4, at 11 AM 3rd Sunday in Lent	Terry Carpenter	Clara & Susan Craaybeek, Eve Darfus	Tara Craaybeek Pat Dreyer Jean Robertson Larry Sanford David Shonk Amy Woo
Monday, 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Isabelle Lazar, Olivia Reynolds	Pat Dreyer Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Kyndra Nagle, Daschel Neighbor	Angie Christy Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Morgan Cox, Silus Hopkins	Lee Guinan Paul Lonergan
Friday, 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Hyde O'Rielly, Amelia Robertson	Rita Merk Mary Jane Vajen
Saturday, Mar 10, at 4 PM Vigil of 4th Sunday in Lent	Sandy Landefeld	Kendall Cox, Diana & Sarah Woo	Bob & Angie Christy Marguerite Grimm Joyce Guenther Lee Guinan Kathy Kehnast
Sunday, Mar 11, at 11 AM 4th Sunday in Lent	Tara Craaybeek	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Teresa Carpenter Pat Gins John & Teresa Hartig Ben Peters Mary Jane Vajen

Tuition Assistance

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.

Diocesan Tuition Assistance.

Applications must be completed on-line at www.factstuitionaid.com. File your 2017 taxes early, because that information is required on your application. 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). 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.

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.)

Ed Choice Expansion Scholarship.

Students, meeting the income eligibility (eg: 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 share the information with family and friends. Call or stop by the school office.

St Bernadette School Registration

St Bernadette School announces **some important dates:** **Now registering students** for the 2018-2019 school year, grades preschool through 5th. Private tours and classroom observations are available at any time.

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

Elementary grades (full-day kindergarten through 5th 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.

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:

- You must be a graduating high school student from the diocese.
- You 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.

School Book Fair

Hundreds of children's books, as well as religious books, adult best-sellers, and unique cookbooks, will be available for immediate purchase at the **St Bernadette School Scholastic Book Fair** in the school library during the week of Mar 12-16. (Monday through Thursday 7:30 AM-3:15 PM and Friday 7:30 AM-1:15 PM) Parishioners are also invited to shop at a special preview event offered before and after Mass on Mar 10 and 11. Come and check-out all of the new titles. Proceeds will help to build classroom collections and to support the school library.

Here and There

St Mary Cemetery Reminder

As Spring approaches, St Mary Cemetery asks that all artificial decorations be removed from graves. Decorations remaining on graves will be removed by cemetery personnel. This winter clean up enables them to get ready for the mowing season and they appreciate your cooperation.

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. It happens at Our Lady of Sorrows Monastery in Toronto, Ohio. 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.

Pilgrimage to Carey

Join a Marian pilgrimage to Our Lady of Consolation Basilica and Shrine in Carey, on Wednesday, May 2, for **a day of prayer**. Cost is \$35. Lunch may be purchased at the cafeteria. Send a check (payable to Margaret Kronenbitter, 2700 Wayne Ridge Rd, Zanesville, Ohio 43701) by Monday, Apr 2. Call Rita Merk at (740) 654-3255 or Ann Messerly at (740) 654-3447 for information.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

An informational meeting on the Pilgrimage to Lourdes from July 1-11 happens on Wednesday, Mar 7, at 7 PM in St Edward Church Parish in Granville. Pilgrims who just returned from Lourdes will also talk about their pilgrimage. Refreshments will be served. RSVP to local contact Linda Woolard (740) 323-3105 or [lindawoolard @ windstream . net](mailto:lindawoolard@windstream.net).

Religion and Science

Ohio Dominican University welcomes Br Guy Consolmagno, SJ at 7 PM on Tuesday, Mar 20, to Sansbury Hall, as he presents "**Religion, Science and the Common Good.**" Br Guy is **director of the Vatican Observatory** and president of the Vatican Observatory Foundation. There is no charge for his presentation.

in the Diocese of Columbus

Dominican Sisters of Peace Retreat

Come away to listen, pray, and reflect on how God is calling you to be a disciple. Join other single, Catholic women, ages 18-45, to explore this question and to learn about contemporary religious life. This free Columbus area retreat is a great opportunity for personal reflection and to explore Dominican life, meet some sisters, and share in their community life. The retreat goes from 5:30 PM, Friday, Mar 9, until 1 PM, Sunday, Mar 11, at the Dominicans Sisters of Peace Motherhouse in Columbus. For information, call or text Sister Pat Dual at (614) 216-7688 or email [pdual @ opeace . org](mailto:pdual@opeace.org). Travel assistance on a need basis is available.

Silent Retreat for Men

The Catholic Layman's Retreat League sponsors a **Palm Sunday Silent Retreat for Men** from 5:30 PM on Friday, Mar 23, until noon on Sunday, Mar 25, at the St Therese Retreat Center in Columbus. Director is **Fr Maurice Emelu** and the theme is **Finding Joy and Peace through a Deepened Friendship with Christ**. Cost is \$160. For information call Dave Ball at (614) 753-1696 or Bob Muetzel at (740) 743-3848.



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.

Bid O’Luck at Fisher Catholic High School

Donations are being gathered for the live and silent auctions at the **Bid O’Luck dinner auction** happening on Saturday, Apr 28, with the theme of *Saturday Night Irish Fever*. Contact Milea Quaintance at (740) 689-3288 to **donate goods, cash or services**. Bid O’Luck **raffle tickets are now on sale** for one \$7,500 prize and five \$500 prizes. Tickets (\$100 each) can be purchased after Mass on Mar 10 & 11 and Apr 14 & 15 or by contacting Kellie Shonk at (740) 654-1231 or keshonk@ceducation.org. Buy a raffle ticket for yourself, or gather your friends and split the cost.

Help in the Opiate Addiction Epidemic

For **resources and suggestions** for families, schools, and parishes to respond to the opiate addiction epidemic in Ohio, visit www.columbuscatholic.org/drug-awareness or contact the Social Concerns office at (614) 241-2540.

Talking about Walking

Attend a talk 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, at with questions cweber.saintjohn@gmail.com.

The Call 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.stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.com or (740) 928-4246.

A Crisis in Religious Freedom

The Theological Consortium of greater Columbus presents the 14th 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 or call (614) 985-2274.

A Weekend for Your Marriage

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.wmecolumbus.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. If you are interested in **opening a Scholarship Fund of your own**, contact Scott Hartman at 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 St Therese Retreat Center. Walter Matthews (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; for information call Karyl Pulsinelli at (614) 736-2783.

Weekly Confessions & Weekday Masses							
But these times sometimes change, so it’s safest to call ahead!							
parish	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	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 1 st Sat	5:30 PM Thu, 3 PM Sat, 8:30 AM on 1 st Sat
Lancaster St Mary	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM			4 PM Sat
Lancaster St Mark	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM		5:30 PM Sat
Sugar Grove St Joseph	VARIES	NOON	7 AM	NOON	NOON		½ hour before Mass
Circleville St Joseph	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		9 AM		4 PM Sat
Logan St John	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM	4 PM Sat
Fisher Catholic HS					2:40 PM		2 PM on 1 st Fri



continuation from the following page

We do well to follow the advice of the Church found in the Catechism (#1785),

“In the formation of conscience the Word of God is the light for our path; we must assimilate it in faith and prayer and put it into practice. We must also examine our conscience before the Lord’s Cross. We are assisted by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, aided by the witness or advice of others and guided by the authoritative teaching of the Church.”

In the past 40 years, the failure to heed the teaching of *Humanae Vitae* has brought great suffering to many married couples and families. It has harmed the very fabric of our society. Perhaps these wrong actions were not culpable because of ignorance but the harm does not for that reason disappear. Now is the time for couples to consider again, or for the first time, the paradoxical wisdom of the Church on issues of married love and fertility.

Self-Giving Love: Following God's Plan

Part Three *By Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of the Diocese of Phoenix*

*This (the third of a) five-part series from Bishop Olmsted originally appeared in **The Catholic Sun**, newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, between July and September of 2005. It is reprinted with permission. Visit catholicsun.org.*

In previous chapters, I have written about the paradoxical wisdom of Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, and of the way John Paul II gave a fuller and more convincing explanation to this prophetic document in his *Theology of the Body*. We have considered the nature of married love, namely that to be authentic it must be total, i.e. the unitive meaning and the procreative meaning always belong together. Something has gone seriously wrong when a husband or wife says, "I give you everything except my fertility," or "I accept you entirely except for your fertility." On the other hand, immense blessings come to couples that follow God's plan for marriage and, when appropriate, practice Natural Family Planning (NFP).

Now, in part three of this series, it might be helpful to consider some questions that are frequently asked about *Humanae Vitae*, NFP and related issues. Many of these are related to the important question of conscience.

Following my conscience

What if a couple does not agree with this teaching of the Church? Shouldn't they follow their own consciences? What if a priest says not to worry about this? Is it true that this is just man-made teaching?

These questions deserve thoughtful consideration, for as the Second Vatican Council taught in *Gaudium Et Spes* (#16),

"Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey... His conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths."

To follow our conscience is to be true to this secret core of our soul where God's voice echoes. Our very dignity as persons demands this conformity with our own conscience; it is unworthy of us merely to follow the fashions of the time or to go along with what others are doing without thoughtful reflection and firm decision of our own.

Forming my conscience

Before following our conscience, we must form it in accord with the voice of God. Our conscience is not the origin of truth. Truth lies outside us; it exists independent of us and must be discovered through constant effort of mind and heart. This is no easy task for us who suffer the effects of original sin and must contend with the constant temptations of the devil. Recall the clarion summons of St. Peter (I Pet 5:8-9), "**Stay sober and alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, solid in your faith.**"

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (#1783) teaches,

"Conscience must be informed and moral judgment enlightened. A well-informed conscience is upright and truthful. It formulates its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator. The education of conscience is indispensable for human beings who are subjected to negative influences and tempted by sin to prefer their own judgment and to reject authoritative teachings."

As we see, to form one's conscience well and to follow it with integrity is no small task. For a person's conscience cannot invent what is true and good. It must search it out beyond itself. When acting correctly, we discover the truth through the grace of the Holy Spirit and the help of God's word handed down to us in the Church. Then, when we submit our conscience to this objective truth, we act uprightly and grow to maturity in Christ.

An erroneous conscience

Sadly, as everyone knows, we humans do not always make good choices; we do not always form our consciences appropriately or we simply do not follow them. We can fail to make the effort to seek out what is true and good; we can be blinded by habitual sins or by the prevailing errors of our time. As the Catechism says (#1786), "*Faced with a moral choice, conscience can make either a right judgment in accordance with reason and the divine law or, on the contrary, an erroneous judgment that departs from them.*"

Humanae Vitae and the *Theology of the Body*, like all teaching of the Church on faith and morals, are reliable sources for forming our consciences in accord with the truth. If a couple decides to act contrary to these, they are acting contrary to the wisdom of the Church, which teaches with the light of the Holy Spirit. Paul VI, in *Humanae Vitae* #20, wrote,

"The teaching of the Church about the proper spacing of children is a promulgation of the divine law itself."

It could happen that a person, in mistaken yet good faith, acts contrary to this teaching. While a person with an erroneous conscience may not be culpable personally because of "invincible ignorance," nonetheless the actions carried out as a result still cause great harm. "*If... the ignorance is invincible, or the moral subject is not responsible for his erroneous judgment, the evil committed by the person cannot be imputed to him. It remains no less an evil, a privation, a disorder. One must therefore work to correct the errors of moral conscience*" (Catechism, 1793). Let me illustrate this point by means of a parallel example. A mechanic, because he has not been given sufficient training, fails to replace a small but essential part of an airplane's engine. Because of this failure, the plane crashes and all the passengers are killed. The mechanic is not guilty of the evil since he did not intend to cause it, yet the consequences are disastrous.

You and I are called to train ourselves to see correctly all that is at stake in our choices. Even if we are not guilty for a wrong that occurs, the wrong will still have harmful consequences.

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