

# Saint Bernadette Parish

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

# Saint Mary Parish

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



## Jesus the True Vine

the parable in today's gospel reading

# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

*April 29, 2018*

## St Bernadette Parish

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LANCASTER, OH 43130-8701

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

cover picture: **icon of the vine and the branches**

Christ is portrayed with Mary his mother, John the Baptist, and the apostles, as the branches who are so deeply connected to him. So are we!

## St Mary Parish

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

### our parishes.

**Fr 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>

**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)  
*religious education*

**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 Stalford** (740) 808 • 7294 [maristellaspri@gmail.com](mailto:maristellaspri@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.

#### Where

Our parishes are where Catholics worship. We can receive the Anointing of the Sick at any appropriate place from the appropriate minister. First reception of Eucharist and of Penance as well as 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, parents 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 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 Sunday at 8 AM.

Every Catholic priest is **available whenever there is a need**. There are Penance opportunities for St Bernadette School children four times in 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 needs to **support couples through the years of 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

### The Church Prays at Mass today

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. 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.

### Mass Intentions This Week

Apr 30, Monday	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Louis & Marjorie Kovach
May 1, Tuesday	8:20 AM	at Bremen St Mary	deceased members of Leo & Eileen Schmelzer family
May 2, Wednesday	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Dan Rudisille
May 3, Thursday	6 PM	at St Bernadette	Beatrice Schuetz
May 4, Friday	8:20 AM	at St Bernadette	Donna Abbott
May 5, Saturday	9 AM	at St Bernadette	Don & Louise Mathias

### Hear God's Word

Apr 29 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts	9:26-31	Ps 1 John	22 3:18-24	John	15:1-8
Apr 30, Monday <i>Saint Pius V, pope</i>	Acts	14:5-18	Ps	115	John	14:21-26
May 1, Tuesday <i>Saint Joseph the Worker</i>	Acts	14:19-28	Ps	145	John	14:27-31
May 2, Wednesday <i>Saint Athanasius</i>	Acts	15:1-6	Ps	122	John	15:1-8
May 3, Thursday <i>Saints Philip &amp; James</i>	1 Cor	15:1-8	Ps	19	John	14:6-14
May 4, Friday	Acts	15:22-31	Ps	57	John	15:12-17
May 5, Saturday	Acts	16:1-10	Ps	100	John	15:18-21
May 6 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts	10:25-48	Ps 1 John	98 4:7-10	John	15:9-17

### Pope Francis Asks Us ...

to pray this month that the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.

## The May Magnificat

*Thinking about this month with the English poet and Jesuit priest, Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)*

MAY is Mary's month, and I  
Muse at that and wonder why:  
Her feasts follow reason,  
Dated due to season—

Candlemas, Lady Day;  
But the Lady Month, May,  
Why fasten that upon her,  
With a feasting in her honour?

Is it only its being brighter  
Than the most are must delight her?  
Is it opportunist  
And flowers finds soonest?

Ask of her, the mighty mother:  
Her reply puts this other  
Question: What is Spring?—  
Growth in every thing—

Flesh and fleece, fur and feather,  
Grass and greenworld all together;  
Star-eyed strawberry-breasted  
Throstle above her nested

Cluster of bugle blue eggs thin  
Forms and warms the life within;  
And bird and blossom swell  
In sod or sheath or shell.

All things rising, all things sizing  
Mary sees, sympathising  
With that world of good,  
Nature's motherhood.

Their magnifying of each its kind  
With delight calls to mind  
How she did in her stored  
Magnify the Lord.

Well but there was more than this:  
Spring's universal bliss  
Much, had much to say  
To offering Mary May.

When drop-of-blood-and-foam-dapple  
Bloom lights the orchard-apple  
And thicket and thorp are merry  
With silver-surfèd cherry

And azuring-over greybell makes  
Wood banks and brakes wash wet like lakes  
And magic cuckoo-call  
Caps, clears, and clinches all—

This ecstasy all through mothering earth  
Tells Mary her mirth till Christ's birth  
To remember and exultation  
In God who was her salvation.

## Prayer for the Sesquicentennial of Our Diocese

Good and gracious God,  
we praise and we thank you for the many graces  
that you have showered upon us over the past 150 years  
in this Diocese of Columbus.

You have brought together faithful men and women  
from many cultures, races, and ethnic groups,  
and through your Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit,  
have molded them into one Catholic Church.

With gratitude, we remember those who have gone before us  
for their commitment, prayer, and work.

We honor their inheritance with our own devotion to the Faith  
and with a desire to pass it on to another generation.

We give thanks as well for all those

devoted clergy, religious brothers and sisters, and lay people  
who have served the diocese so well.

Through the continued gift of your love and wisdom,  
stir up in us a lively faith,

a devotion to the worship of your great name,  
and a desire to serve others,

as we await in hope the great day of the coming again  
of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

For 150 years, you, O God, have been  
our guide and inspiration.

We beseech you to remain with us  
on this journey of life and faith.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### May is Mary's Month

At St Mary Parish (*her* parish) we will pray the rosary every  
Sunday morning in May before the 8:30 AM Mass.

At St Bernadette Parish (*her* dear young *friend's* parish) we will  
continue to pray the rosary before the 11 AM Mass.



## Both Parishes

### Catholic Homeschool

Do you homeschool? Are you looking for a curriculum stamped with an imprimatur, recognized by the Catholic Church, to teach your children in a co-op setting? Lancaster Catholic Schoolhouse offers a Catholic-based core curriculum including science lab and art classes. They also offer Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a Diocesan approved religious education program. Contact Holly Vail @ stmarkhomeschool @ gmail . com or (614) 352-6357.

### The Sacraments of Initiation !

Pray for our parishioners who this Easter Season have received or are about to receive the Sacraments of Initiation:

**already baptized Christian now received into the full Communion of the Catholic Church and confirmed**

*Savannah Dalton* (from St Bernadette)

**soon to be Confirmed**

*Jane Uhl, Olivia Carbol, Susan Craaybeek, Alexis Cymanski, Eve Darfus, Sam Finck, Mary Frazier, Leo Gauerke, Hunter Jamison, Katelyn Jarrell, Joshua Latorre, Olivia McCormick, Nick Pechar, Brennan Quaintance, Luke Sharp, Emily Taylor, Jack Tencza, Brooke Vogel, Diana Woo* (from St Bernadette)

and *Brooke Holt* (from Bremen St Mary)

**received Holy Communion for the first time**

*Ellie Barringer, Christopher Fitzgibbon, Ella Reed, Ella Sanford, Flora Woo* (from St Bernadette)

and *Kara Borah, Mason Holt, Christopher Springer* (from Bremen St Mary)

Also pray for several others who are at various stages of preparation for entry into the Church later. And pray for the grace for yourself to welcome and invite others to the sacramental life!

## St Bernadette Parish

### Happy Birthday

St Bernadette former pastor Monsignor Robert Noon celebrates his 95th birthday on May 15. May also marks the 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. He is living in a rather active retirement at the Villas of St Thérèse. If you would like to send him a card, his address is 5253 E Broad Street #127, Columbus, Ohio 43213.

### Very Newly Baptized!

Welcome and pray for St Bernadette's newest Christian, **John Patrick Smith**, son of Brian and Amanda Smith, who was baptized on Sunday, Apr 22.

### 5th Sunday Collection

Members of the **St Vincent de Paul** Society will take a **collection at the church doors** on Apr 28 and 29, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday this month. Please be generous. The society helps the needy in the Lancaster area. They operate on income from their store and from your donations.

### Entering St Bernadette School

St Bernadette School **invites you to register your children now** for grades preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> for the 2018-2019 school year. Private tours and classroom observations are available at any time.

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

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 School offers a full day **kindergarten program** that fosters the academic, social and emotional growth and development of each child in a very family-friendly environment. Studies show that the advantages of a full-day program far outweigh a half-day, including but certainly not limited to, full-day kindergartners learning more literacy and mathematics than those in half-day programs.

### Ministry at Mass at St Bernadette

+	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion
Apr 28 at 4 PM Saturday, Vigil 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Bob Christy	Eve Darfus, Addy Myers, Jack Tencza	Angie Christy Kathy Kehnast Jim & Becky Kuhn Sandy Landefeld Brad Rider
Apr 29 at 11 AM 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Jim Merk	Brennan Quaintance, Avee & Drew Solt	Tara Craaybeek John & Teresa Hartig Rita Merk Teresa Scarpitti Becky Wickham
Monday, 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Olivia Reynolds, Amelia Robertson	Pat Dreyer Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	5 <sup>th</sup> Graders	Angie Christy Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	At Catholic Youth Camp	Lee Guinan Paul Lonergan
Friday, 8:20 PM	Jim Merk		Rita Merk Mary Jane Vajen
Saturday, 9 AM	Kara Tencza	Jack Tencza	Jim & Rita Merk
May 5 at 4 PM Saturday Vigil 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Pat Gins	Samantha Kerns, Logan & Tori Loy	Terry Carpenter Susan Garrett Joyce Guenther Denise McGuire Mickey Steyaert Kathy Wagner
May 6 at 11 AM 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Dennis Forquer	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Larry Sanford Anna Sevigny David Shonk Mary Jane Vajen Becky Wickham Amy Woo

### St Bernadette Blood Drive

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, from 9 AM-2 PM in the parish hall. There will be lunch and cupcakes—and other pleasant surprises!—for all our donors. Since the first birthday drive in 2007, **we have collected over 1000 units of blood**, saving up to 3000 lives. Call (740) 974-5040 or go to [www . redcrossblood . org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment or sign up to donate. The need for blood is constant—every two seconds someone in the US needs blood. Each day the American Red Cross must collect approximately 14,000 units of blood to meet the needs of patients at 2,600 hospitals and transfusion centers.



## Shawl Ministry

The St. Bernadette Shawl Ministry seeks to provide **comfort to bereaved and seriously ill friends**. If you are interested in crocheting shawls for our parish, call Terry Carpenter at (740) 681-9918. Yarn is provided and lessons are available for those who would like to learn to crochet.

## Bremen St Mary Parish

### Vacation Church School

St Mary Parish will host children from parishes all over our area for a week of fun, learning, and prayer at a very special Vacation Church School again this summer, on the evenings of June 18-22, at **Schmelzer's Grove**. A planning meeting happens on Wednesday, May 2 at 6:30 PM at St Mary in Bremen. Anyone (from either parish!) interested in helping should attend. Please contact Sarah Borah at (740) 569-7738 (so she will know how much pizza to order for this session!).

## Ministry at Mass at St Mary

+	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Apr 29 at 8:30 AM	Jeanne Schmelzer	Caden & Cody Fyffe	Neil Boch, Wyatt Borah, Angi Skinner	Maurice Schmelzer family	Angi Skinner
6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter May 6 at 8:30 AM	Barb VanFossen-Cook	Spencer Conrad, Isaac Schmelzer	Leo Kunkler Sr, Tyna Schmelzer-Fox, Barb VanFossen-Cook	Leo Ruff family	Barb VanFossen-Cook

## Around Central Ohio

### Dealing with 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](http://www.columbuscatholic.org/drug-awareness) or contact the Social Concerns office at (614) 241-2540.

### Put a Spring in Your Step

That's what you'll have after a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend**. The next two weekends in Central Ohio are July 13-15 and Sept 14-16. Marriage Encounter is where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each other. For information or to apply, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www.wmccolumbus.org](http://www.wmccolumbus.org).

### From the Chair

"From the Chair with Bishop Campbell" airs on Tuesday, May 1, from 5 to 6 PM on *Saint Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820*. The **annual College Forum** happens as students from the Ohio State University discuss with Bishop Campbell the relationship between their intellectual life and their Catholic faith.



## A Job in Upper Arlington

St Andrew Parish in Upper Arlington seeks a full time **youth minister** to direct a program for parishioners in grades 6-12. Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" course. Send cover letter, resume, and references by Monday, May 7, to Monsignor Stephen Moloney at [smoloney@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:smoloney@columbuscatholic.org)

## Catholic Record Society

The Society holds its annual luncheon meeting on Saturday, May 5, at Westminster-Thurber Community in Columbus. They will gather at 11:30 AM, luncheon begins at 12:15. After that will come a presentation by Msgr Frank Lane. To commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Columbus, his topic is on **Lost Horizons and Forgotten Pieces on Pilgrimage**, taking a look at the rapidly changing experience of the Church in our area from the early missionary days to the more settled world of growth and development. He will revisit some of the "lost" churches and communities in the diocese and wonder about the continuation of shifting patterns of the Church in the contemporary age. Father earned a PhD in history at the Ohio State University. He has taught at the Athenaeum of Ohio, St Bonaventure University, the Pontifical College Josephinum, and diocesan high schools. He has published many articles and translations. He was a chaplain in the Ohio National Guard, and received the army commendation medal.

A short business meeting follows the presentation. Copies of the new biography of Bishop Rosecrans by member Tom Schlegel will be available. Cost of the luncheon is \$20 @ person. Deadline for reservations is Friday, Apr 27. All are welcome to attend. For information, contact chairman Mike Finn at (614) 268-4166 or [FCoolavin@aol.com](mailto:FCoolavin@aol.com).

## Weekly Confessions & Masses

But these times sometimes change, so call ahead!							
parish	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Penance
<i>Bremen St Mary</i>		8:20 AM					8 AM Sun
<i>Lancaster St Bernadette</i>	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	9 AM 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat	5:30 PM Thu, 3 PM Sat, 8:30 AM on First 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 First Fri

## Our Franciscan Friends Celebrate May

The Franciscan Sisters TOR invite you to celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at an **Open House and May Crowning** on Saturday, May 19, at their monastery at 369 Little Church Road, Toronto, Ohio. This family fun day includes pony rides, hayrides, a petting zoo, and face painting, along with a "Battle of the (Praise) Bands"

from 11 AM to 1:30 PM. Bands from various area churches will perform. Lunch is free. May Crowning will be held outdoors at 1:30 PM and the Pentecost Vigil Mass at 4 PM. No reservations necessary; donations are gratefully accepted. For information, visit [www . FranciscanSistersTOR . org](http://www.FranciscanSistersTOR.org) or call (740) 544-5542.

## Irish Alumni Golf

**Alumni of St. Mary, Bishop Fenwick and Fisher Catholic High Schools** will play at Pleasant Valley Golf Course on Saturday, June 9, at 9 AM at \$150 per team. For information and to check availability contact Molly Neighbor at (740) 654-1231 or [mneighbor @ cducation . org](mailto:mneighbor@cducation.org).

## A Job in Sugar Grove

St Joseph Sugar Grove announces an opening for the **part-time** position of **parish secretary and /or business manager**. The secretary coordinates the day-to-day activities of the parish, facilitates all clerical aspects of the parish office, and produces the

weekly parish bulletin. The business manager serves the pastor in administration, personnel, finance and facilities needs. This position requires three to five years previous office management experience or equivalent combination of education and experience. One or two persons may be hired. Please inquire to Father Walter at (740) 746-8302 or [stjosephsugargrove @ gmail . com](mailto:stjosephsugargrove@gmail.com).

## Catholic Men's Luncheon Club

The next Catholic Men's Luncheon Club features a talk by Jubilee Museum director Shawn Kenney of Holy Family Parish **about the Jubilee Museum** and his involvement with it. Mass begins at 11:45 AM on Friday, May 4, at St Patrick Church in Columbus followed by lunch and the presentation. No reservations are necessary; \$10 covers the lunch and meeting. For information on Catholic men's luncheons, visit [www . catholicmensministry . com/cmhc](http://www.catholicmensministry.com/cmhc) or contact George Harvey, CMLC president at [GLHarvey56 @ gmail . com](mailto:GLHarvey56@gmail.com).

# the Bishop's Annual Appeal

Theme for the 2018 BAA is

*Sharing His Love, Encouraging Hope*

This is a diocesan appeal for financial support. Your gift to the BAA will directly support these critical areas of need:

- Quality Catholic education for our children through tuition assistance, capital repair grants for high schools, and operating aid for schools.
- The education and formation of seminarians discerning and answering the call to the priesthood.
- The vital work of serving parish catechetical leaders in parish and school religious education programs.
- Marriage preparation and enrichment programs supporting the vocation of traditional marriage, natural family planning programs, and family faith formation events.
- The formation and ministry of permanent deacons in our diocese.
- The education, spiritual cultivation, and evangelization of our multi-ethnic Catholic communities and the parishes serving them.
- The coordination of all liturgies presided at by Bishop Campbell, and sponsorship of diocesan events such as the Rite of Election and adult Confirmation.
- Unified programs for youth and young adult ministry that deepen the faith and involvement of our younger generations.

## Ways to Give

Please support the Bishop's Annual Appeal that begins in one week. The BAA extends the ministry of the Church in all **the 23 counties of the Diocese of Columbus**. St Bernadette has been asked to raise \$36,305 and St Mary has been asked to raise \$13,121. We can do this if each household will make a pledge. Any amount we give over that goal will be refunded to our parishes.

Consider **not** making a **one-time donation**. Instead, make a pledge for a gift that is given in installments over a longer period. If you give what is available in your pocket today, that will be nice, but it will not have the generosity or the impact of a pledge

sustained through monthly or quarterly gifts throughout the year. The diocese will send reminders. And you will be able to do more for the Church.

**The sooner everyone makes a pledge**—or lets us know your plans, the sooner we can conclude this appeal. If you can't give on May 6, please make your **pledge the following week**. If you are not going to make a pledge this year, please indicate that on the pledge card. Thank you. God will bless you for your generosity.

## Our Goals

The diocesan goal is \$ 6,750,000.  
For St Mary it is \$ 13,121.  
For St Bernadette it is \$ 36,305.

## Appeal Prayer

Gracious and loving God,  
we are ever grateful for the many gifts  
which you have bestowed upon us.  
We are especially thankful, dear Father,  
for the gift of your Son, Jesus.  
May his Sacred Heart help us  
to know your infinite love for us,  
and may it give us the courage  
to continue his work in the world by  
Sharing His Love and Encouraging Hope.  
We pray that you will help us all respond to your love  
by imitating your generosity,  
as we consider the needs of all those living in our diocese.  
May we touch the lives and hearts of others  
by our participation in this appeal.  
May you send your Holy Spirit to dwell with us always,  
so that all we say and do will give you fitting praise.  
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Meaning of Marriage & Sexual Difference

*The bad news is that many people are utterly confused about the meaning of marriage. The good news is that this provides us with a golden opportunity to recall the Church's teaching on **what God has to say about his invention of married life**. Today we draw on the United States Catholic Conference's website to address some of these issues.*

To understand what marriage is, the best place to start is with the human person. After all, marriage is a unique relationship between two specific persons, one man and one woman. We must ask, "What does it mean to be a human person, as a man or as a woman?" First, men and women are created in the image of God (see Genesis 1:27). This means that they have great dignity and worth. Also, since "God is love," (1 John 4:8) each person – created in God's image – finds his or her fulfillment by loving others. Second, men and women are body-persons. The body – male or female – is an essential part of being human. Gender is not an afterthought or a mere social construct. The body shapes what it means to love as a human person. To sum up, **when we think about marriage, we must think about who the human person is – created with great dignity, and called to love as a body-person, male or female.**

## Where does marriage come from?

"God himself is the author of marriage" (Vatican Council II, *Gaudium et Spes* 48). When God created human persons in his own image, as male and female, he placed in their hearts the desire, and the task, to love – to give themselves totally to another person. Marriage is one of two ways **someone can make a total self-gift** (the other is virginity, devoting oneself entirely to God) (see John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*, 11). Marriage is not something thought up by human society or by any religion – rather, **it springs from who the human person is**, as male and female, and society and religion affirm and reinforce it. **The truth of marriage is therefore accessible to everyone**, regardless of their religious beliefs or lack thereof. Both faith and reason speak to the true meaning of marriage.

## What is marriage?

Marriage is **the lifelong partnership of mutual and exclusive fidelity between a man and a woman ordered by its very nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children** (see **Catechism of the Catholic Church** 1601; **Code of Canon Law**, can. 1055.1; *Gaudium et Spes*, 48). The bond of marriage is **indissoluble** – that is, it lasts "until death do us part." At the heart of married love is **the total gift of self** that husband and wife freely offer to each other. Because of their sexual difference, husband and wife can truly become "one flesh" and can give to each other "the reality of children, who are a living reflection of their love" (*Familiaris Consortio*, 14). Marriage between a baptized man and a baptized woman is a **sacrament**. This means that the bond between husband and wife is **a visible sign of the sacrificial love of Christ for his Church**. As a sacrament, marriage gives spouses **the grace they need to love each other generously**, in imitation of Christ.

## Why can't marriage be "redefined" to include two men or two women?

The word "marriage" isn't simply a label that can be attached to different types of relationships. Instead, "**marriage**" **reflects a deep reality** – the reality of the unique, fruitful, lifelong union **that is only possible between a man and a woman**. Just as oxygen and hydrogen are essential to water, **sexual difference is essential to marriage**. The attempt to "redefine" marriage to include two persons of the same sex denies the reality of what marriage is. It is as impossible as trying to "redefine" water to include oxygen and nitrogen.

## What is sexual difference?

Sexual difference is **the difference of man to woman and woman to man**. It **affects a person at every level of his or her existence**: genetically, biologically, emotionally, psychologically, and socially. Sexual difference is **an irreducible difference**. It is unlike any other difference we experience, because **it – and only it – allows for the total personal union between husband and wife that is at the heart of marriage**. The difference between men and women is for the sake of their union with each other. It is what makes spousal union possible.

## Isn't marriage just about love and commitment between two people?

Of course, love and commitment are important for marriage – as they are for many relationships. But **marriage is unique because the commitment it calls for is better described as communion, where "the two become one flesh"** (Genesis 2:24). Only a man and a woman in marriage can become a "one flesh" communion. The unity of husband and wife is **so intimate that from it can come a "third," the child – a new life to be welcomed and raised in love**. No other relationship, no matter how loving or committed, can have this unique form of commitment – communion – that exists in marriage, between a husband and a wife.

*Text adapted from <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/marriage/promotion-and-defense-of-marriage/frequently-asked-questions-on-defense-of-marriage.cfm#citation>  
All of the references can be found in English at the Vatican website.  
You may find them beautiful reflections on the meaning of marriage.*

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