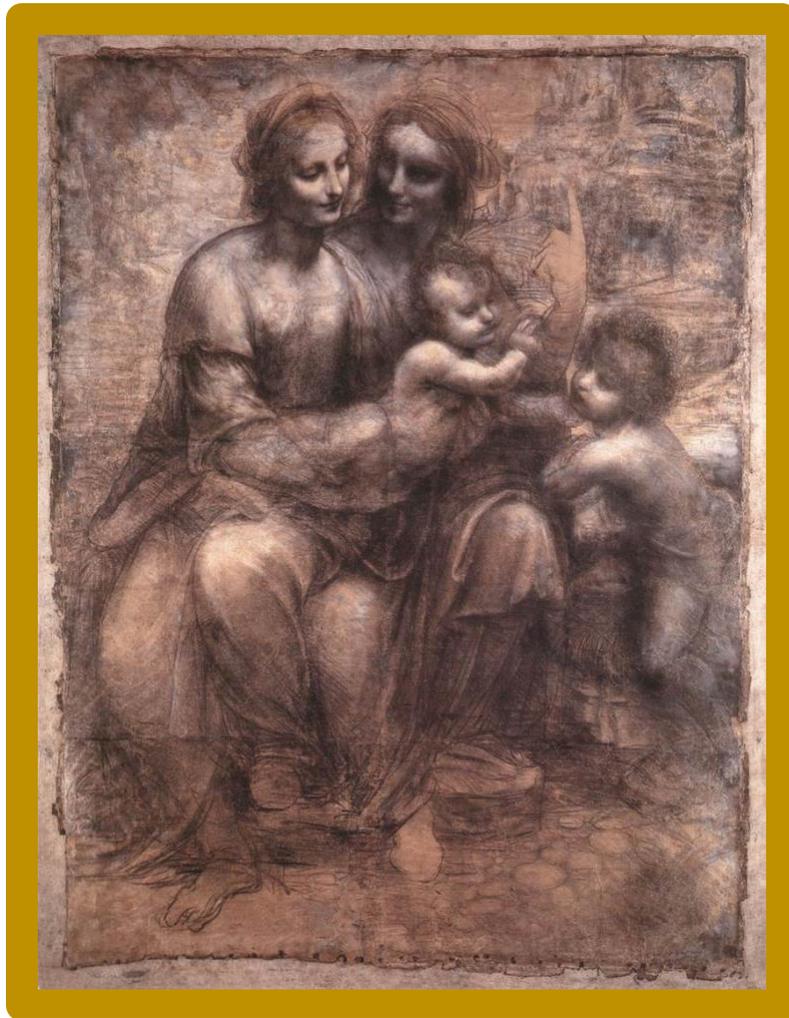


*The Parishes of*

**Saint Mary in Bremen &  
Saint Bernadette in Lancaster**



**Madonna and Child with St Anne and the Young St John**

**The Birthday of Saint John the Baptist**

June 24, 2018

## St Bernadette Parish

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

## St Mary Parish

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

cover picture: **Madonna and Child with St Anne and the Young St John**  
Charcoal with white chalk on paper (1507-1508), by Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)  
now in the National Gallery, London

### sacramental life

#### Where

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. 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 and both godparents need to be practicing Catholics. If you don't **attend Sunday Mass regularly (a basic part of being a practicing Catholic!)**, there is something you can do: Start coming to Sunday Mass.

#### Penance

The priest is available for Penance

- at St Bernadette: on Saturday at 3 PM and Thursday 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. 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.

### our parishes

both parishes	<b>Fr Thomas Kessler</b>	<i>pastor</i>	(614) 634 • 0499	<i>wnthomaskessler</i>	@ icloud . com	
	<b>Stephen Karnes</b>	<i>business manager</i>	(740) 654 • 1893	<i>stbernbook</i>	@ gmail . com	
	<b>Kathy Kehnast</b>	<i>pastoral coordinator</i>	(740) 654 • 1893	<i>stbernparish</i>	@ yahoo . com	
	<b>Julie &amp; Chase Stalford</b>	<i>youth ministry</i>	(740) 808 • 7294	<i>maristellaspiri</i>	@ gmail . com	
Bremen St Mary Parish	<b>Ben Factor</b>	<i>liturgical music</i>		<i>b_factor</i>	@ lancaster . k12.oh.us	
	<b>Sarah Borah</b>	<i>religious education</i>		<i>sborah920</i>	@ gmail . com	
<b>The Bremen Parish office</b> is at the church vestibule. Hours: 9-11 AM, Tuesdays.						
St Bernadette Parish	<b>602 Marietta St, Bremen, OH 43107</b>		(740) 569 • 7738			
	<b>Jeff Carpenter</b>	<i>deacon</i>	(740) 681 • 9918	<i>carpenter.277</i>	@ osu . edu	
	<b>Mark Scarpitti</b>	<i>deacon</i>	(740) 438 • 3970	<i>dcn.mark</i>	@ frontier . com	
	<b>Ann Essman</b>	<i>pastoral minister</i>	(740) 653 • 9347	<i>aessman001</i>	@ att . net	
	<b>Steve Huber</b>	<i>facilities coordinator</i>	(740) 654 • 3137	<i>shuber57</i>	@ yahoo . com	
	<b>Angie &amp; Kent Kerns</b>	<i>religious education</i>	(740) 654 • 2588	<i>kwkerns</i>	@ gmail . com	
Saint Bernadette School	<b>Liz Latorre</b>	<i>liturgical music</i>	(740) 243 • 1872	<i>lizlatorre</i>	@ gmail . com	
	<b>The St Bernadette Parish office</b> is in the Mary Good Center, across the back parking lot from the school.					
	<b>1343 Wheeling Rd NE, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701</b>		(740) 654 • 1893	<b>stbernadetteparish . net</b>		
	<b>Pam Eltringham</b>	<i>principal</i>	(740) 654 • 3137	<i>peltring</i>	@ cdeducation . org	
	<b>Barb Huber</b>	<i>secretary</i>	(740) 654 • 3137	<i>bhuber</i>	@ cdeducation . org	
<b>St Bernadette School</b> is located at 1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701						
	<b>stbernlan @ cdeducation . org</b>		(740) 654 • 3137	<b>www . stbernadetteschool . com</b>		

Bremen St Vincent de Paul (740) 569-7738

Lancaster St Vincent de Paul [www . svdplancasteroh . com](http://www.svdplancasteroh.com)

## At Prayer with the Church

### How the Church Prays at Mass Today

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that your family may walk in the way of salvation and,  
attentive to what Saint John the Precursor urged,  
may come safely to the One he foretold,  
our Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

#### The Best of Intentions ... at Mass

June 25, Monday	8:20 AM	St Bernadette	John & Ann Muetzel
June 26, Tuesday	8:20 AM	Bremen St Mary	Tom Kunkler
June 27, Wednesday	8:20 AM	St Bernadette	Donna Turrin
June 28, Thursday	6 PM	St Bernadette	John Bolster
June 29, Friday	8:20 AM	St Bernadette	Leonard & Elizabeth Monaghan
June 30, Saturday	4 PM	St Bernadette	Poor Souls in Purgatory

+

#### Hear the Word of the Lord

June 24 Nativity of St John the Baptist	Isaiah Acts	49:1-6 13:22-26	Ps 139	Luke 1:57-80
June 25, Monday	2 Kings	17:5-18	Ps 60	Matthew 7:1-5
June 26, Tuesday	2 Kings	19:9-36	Ps 48	Matthew 7:6-14
June 27, Wednesday <i>St Cyril of Alexandria</i>	2 Kings	22:8-23:3	Ps 119	Matthew 7:15-20
June 28, Thursday <i>St Irenaeus</i>	2 Kings	24:8-17	Ps 79	Matthew 7:21-29
June 29, Friday <i>Sts Peter &amp; Paul, apostles</i>	Acts 2 Timothy	12:1-11 4:6-18	Ps 34	Matthew 16:13-19
June 30, Saturday <i>First Martyrs of the Church at Rome</i>	Lamentations	2:2-19	Ps 74	Matthew 8:5-17
July 1 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Wisdom 2 Corinthians	1:13-2:24 8:7-15	Ps 30	Mark 5:21-43

## Pope Francis Asks Us to Pray in June

... that social networks  
may work towards that inclusiveness  
which respects others for their differences.

### Both Parishes

#### A New Pastor !

We have received word that Father Tyron Tomson has been appointed pastor of our two parishes effective July 10.

On the back page of today's bulletin, read what he had to say to the Catholic Times at the time of his ordination to the priesthood in 2011.

### Peter's Pence

Today we will have the Peter's Pence Collection to provide Pope Francis with funds to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Please be generous. For information, visit [www.usccb.org/peters-pence](http://www.usccb.org/peters-pence).

### Retirement Reception

Father Kessler's retirement reception happens today, Sunday, June 24, from 12:30 until 2 PM in the St Bernadette parish hall. Everyone is invited.

By the way, after July 10, Father Kessler will live and help out at **St Catharine Parish in Columbus**. His address will be:

- 500 South Gould Rd, Columbus, OH 43209
- His email and cell phone will continue to be:
- [wmthomaskessler@icloud.com](mailto:wmthomaskessler@icloud.com).
- (614) 634-0499.

## Bremen St Mary Parish

### Your Gift to the Food Pantry

The Bremen Food Pantry needs margarine or butter (among other things!). Place your donation in the refrigerator in the kitchen at St Mary parish hall. This will help the **Pantry Open House** in Bremen, on Saturday, June 30, from 9-11 AM, when any family in need can stop by to receive food assistance, with no prior registration or sign up needed.



Ministry at Mass at St Mary				
+	Lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Communion	sacristan / usher
St John the Baptist June 24 at 8:30 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday July 1 at 8:30	Joe Young	Isaac Schmelzer, Nicole Terry	Pam Redding, Joe & Cathy Young	Chris Redding
	Susan Foltz	Cody Fyffe, Chase Harmon	Neil Boch, Wyatt Borah, Susan Foltz	Ralph Mohler

Ministry at Mass at St Bernadette			
+	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion
Saturday, June 23 at 4 PM Nativity of St John the Baptist Vigil Mass	Becky Kuhn	Kendall Cox, Avee & Drew Solt	Terry Carpenter Jim Kuhn Sandy Landefeld Denise McGuire Craig Shaw Kathy Wagner
Sunday, June 24 at 11 AM Nativity of St John the Baptist	David Shonk	Daniel Turner, Brooke & Bryson Vogel	Tara Craaybeek Pat Dreyer Pat Gins Rita Merk Ben Peters Jean Robertson
Monday, 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Addy Myers Jack Tencza	Pat Dreyer Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Amelia & Gunner Robertson	Angie Christy Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Kyndra Nagle Olivia Reynolds	Lee Guinan Paul Loneran
Friday, 8:20 PM	Jim Merk	Becca Fuller Brennan Quaintance	Rita Merk Mary Jane Vajen
Saturday, June 30 at 4 PM 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Vigil Mass	Brad Rider	Mallory, Mason & Mitchell Ortiz	Rosalie DeFillippo Pat Gins Susan Garrett Lee Guinan Kathy Kehnast Mickey Steyaert
Sunday July 1 at 11 AM 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Amy Woo	Caroline Messerly, Diana & Sarah Woo	Jean Robertson Larry Sanford Teresa Scarpitti Anna Sevigny David Shonk Becky Wickham

## News from Vacation Church School

Here is a Tuesday flash report from VCS where the children are becoming excited about the seven sacraments!

*I just wanted to let you know that as of last night we have 47 registered kids! I am hoping that maybe tonight we will reach 50 kids!!! :)*

*Pray for nice weather! Last night was a warm one but the sunshine was beautiful and we had a wonderful time. I will keep everyone updated.*

*Have a wonderful day  
Sarah Borah*

## Let's Keep (Square) Dancing

Summer means square dancing at Schmelzer's Grove on Sundays from 7-9:30 PM. Mark your calendars for the Sunday evenings of **July 8** and **Aug 12**. Admission is \$4 per person. Please note that the July dance has been moved up a week to the 8<sup>th</sup>.

## St Bernadette Parish

### St Bernadette Blood Drive

The next St Bernadette blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, July 21, from 9 AM until 2 PM. In honor of a local child who was recently diagnosed with ALL, a form of leukemia, the goal is many of units of blood to help local patients in need. There will be lunch and sandwiches as always, and the chance to save a life. Make appointments at [www . redcrossblood . org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call (740) 974-5040.

### Soup for the Soul Ministry

A new ministry is getting started at St Bernadette. This ministry will provide pastoral caring for **folks recently discharged from a hospital or nursing home or who are homebound**. Members will bring a gift of homemade soup from the parish. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, call Marlene Clark at (740) 974-6561.



## Around Central Ohio

### A Sign of Contradiction

People of science, medical professionals, families, priests, and religious are invited to an afternoon at St Peter Church in Chillicothe to revisit Pope Paul VI's famous encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. Learn about its historical development, its prophetic message, and what it means 50 years later. Speakers for the day will be Dr Renee Mirkes, Dr Ashley Fernandes, Dr Alicia Thompson, and Fr Adam Streitenberger. The conference happens from noon to 5 PM on Saturday, July 7, at a cost of \$20 per person and \$35 per family. Pre-registration can be completed by June 25 by calling (740) 774-1407 or emailing secretary @ stpeterchillicothe . com.

### Praying for Religious Freedom

As part of the national Religious Freedom Week, a Mass and holy hour for Religious Freedom will be celebrated Wednesday, June 27, at 5:15 PM, at St Joseph Cathedral. Holy hour will include the rosary, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and Benediction. All are welcome. Call (614) 241-2540 or [orsocmailbox @ columbuscatholic . org](mailto:orsocmailbox@columbuscatholic.org). For information about **religious freedom issues**, visit [www . usccb . org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty).

## Holy Hour for Religious Freedom

Religious freedom protects the space in which we can continue to serve. St Mary Parish in Lancaster hosts a **holly hour for religious freedom** on Thursday, June 28, from 7 to 8 PM. All are invited. Join Catholics across the country to pray and act for the freedom to serve faithfully and with integrity. Learn more at [www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek](http://www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek).

## A Month for the Sacred Heart

June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Bishop Rosecrans first consecrated our diocese to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1871, and Bishop Campbell re-consecrated us in 2015. The diocese of Columbus has an apostolic organization dedicated to bringing Our Lord's Sacred Heart into every home, school and business. Visit [sacredheartcongresscolumbus.org](http://sacredheartcongresscolumbus.org).

## Marriage is a Sacrament!

But what does that *mean*? Learn a new way to find the Lord in your home at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. The next two weekends in Central Ohio are July 13-15 and Sept 14-16. For information or to apply, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www.wmccolumbus.org](http://www.wmccolumbus.org)

## Springs Celebrating 150 Years

This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **the founding of St Mary of the Springs Academy**. A committee of Academy graduates is searching for memorabilia, including photos, yearbooks, and diplomas, for **a permanent display at the Jubilee Museum** in Columbus. St Mary Academy was a Catholic school for girls founded by the Dominican sisters in 1830 in Somerset. When a fire destroyed the buildings, the sisters rebuilt in Columbus in 1868. To reflect the natural springs on the property, "of the Springs" was added to the name. The Academy closed in 1966. For information or donations, contact (614) 237-1379.

## Pilgrimage to Alabama

St Gabriel Radio's **pilgrimage to EWTN and the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament** in Alabama is filling up. Bus transportation, lodging, tours, and meals are all included. The bus leaves Wednesday, June 27, at 7 AM and returns Saturday, June 30, at 6 PM. For information or to register, contact [colleenl@stgabrielradio.com](mailto:colleenl@stgabrielradio.com) or (614) 459-4820.

## Coaching Positions Available

St Mary School in Lancaster seeks applicants for these school coaching positions for 2018-2019:

- head football coach, assistant football coach,
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball coach, 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball coach, 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball coach, 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball coach, and
- head track coach.

Applicants should have playing or instructing experience at college, high school, or middle school level and demonstrate appropriate knowledge for the development of fundamental techniques. Pay will be a one-time stipend at the end of the

season. Send letters of interest, resumes, references, and a copy of current *pupil activity permit* to athletic directors Ria and Noah Kerns at [mkerns18@yahoo.com](mailto:mkerns18@yahoo.com)

## Fisher Catholic Golf

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chuck Rogers Memorial Golf Event happens Saturday, Aug 4, at 8:45 AM at the Pleasant Valley Golf Club in Lancaster. Three-person teams should send the \$150 fee to Kellie Shonk at Fisher Catholic High School. All proceeds will **benefit the Fisher Catholic Athletic Association**. Interested sponsors should contact Russell Rogers at (740) 304-7180.

## Basketball Camp

Fisher Catholic boys basketball camp for grades 1-8 runs from June 25-28 from 6-8 PM. Cost is \$40 for one child and \$30 for each additional child in a family.

### *Sharing His Love, Encouraging Hope* Bishop's Annual Appeal: 7<sup>th</sup> Report

BAA 2018 week 7	families participating	pledged	average gift	paid	goal
St Bernadette	141/440	\$37,340	\$ 265	\$21,860	\$36,305
% of goal	32%	103%		60%	
St Mary	47/135	\$18,605	\$396	\$9,835	\$13,121
% of goal	35%	142%		75%	
St Mary		\$5,689,793			\$6,750,000
% of goal		84%			

## Families, Become What You Are!

Join other families in Cincinnati on July 6 & 7 for Couple to Couple League's celebration of life lived according to the principles of *Humanae Vitae*. This one-of-a-kind family conference offers programming for ages three through twelfth grade, so your kids will have a great time while you listen to inspirational speakers Janet Smith, Christopher West, Damon Owens and Fr Nathan Cromly. For information and to register, go to <http://cclconvention.com>.

## There Was a Catholic Reformation!

St Mary Parish in Lancaster offers a course this summer titled "**True Reformers—Saints of the Catholic Reformation**." In this 6-part DVD series from the Augustine Institute, Dr Christopher Blum explores the lives of six saints who spearheaded the Church's renewal after the turbulence and confusion caused by the Protestant Reformation. Discover how that their call to return to the adventure of following Christ is just as compelling today as it was 500 years ago. Deepen your understanding of the Church's response to the Protestant Reformation through her saints. The series happens on Wednesday mornings from 8 to 9:30 AM from June 27 through Aug 15, in the Spirit Center. Workbook cost is \$17. Contact Brian McCauley at (740) 653-5054.

## Giving Birth and Giving Life

**Angels Nurture and Disciple, AND** is a new pro-life ministry that aims to inspire, empower, and facilitate real improvement in the educational, career, financial, and spiritual well-being of single mothers who have chosen life for their un-born child.

**AND's** programs extend to women who desire and seek change but don't have the support to make real change happen. Each woman who seeks to join in **AND** is matched with a mentor

who walks with her for two years, providing positive role modeling as a woman, mother, and child of God. **AND** needs volunteers and supporters. To support or volunteer, visit [www.angelsand.org](http://www.angelsand.org) or call Tim Welsh at (614) 419-6985. Whether you have 1 hour @ month or 10, there is a need for you. Every mother is a gift to her baby; help **AND** show her just how much. **The poverty rate of single mothers** is twice that of single fathers. **AND** is transforming single motherhood. Will you help?

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## A Strangely Relevant Feast Day

Usually when the Church remembers a saint's birthday, we commemorate the day of that person's birth into heaven, the day of his or her death. In the case of a martyr, we recall the heroic way that person faced death for the sake of the Lord. In any case, the day the saint entered heaven is the great day of his life. We do that with St John with a memorial of his "passion" and death on Aug 29. But John is the very rare saint whose main commemoration is on his birthday.

When we celebrate someone's—almost anyone's—birthday, we aren't so much thinking about the day that person was born into this world, but rather we recall the whole mystery and accomplishments or delights of that person. Of course, the memories of a child's mother or father or other older relatives do indeed turn to the actual day and the circumstances of the birth itself. But most celebrations of a birthday are about the person's whole life as the celebrators have come to know it.

And that fits for Saint John. His death was a noble martyrdom. But the witness he is best remembered for is not the brave witness of his speaking the truth to power by telling King Herod that he must end and repent of his adulterous relation with a woman who was already married, a woman who was his own sister-in-law. The Church certainly recalls what the New Testament tells about what led to John's beheading.

Speaking up about a sin which we might all prefer to keep silent about in any case is particularly ... awkward when the persons involved have power over one's life. Would you have spoken up about that sin? Would you have hesitated to say anything out of fear that you might be made to suffer, physically like John or in your own reputation when people around would call you a "puritan" or would say you are probably yourself a hypocrite, guilty of the sin you are condemning? Would you have resorted to a "don't ask, don't tell" attitude about a sin that is cause of so much harm to the lives of so many families? Would you have defended yourself for saying nothing out of a sense of mercy to the poor sinner? After all, Jesus did tell the woman who was accused of adultery, brought before him—without her equally guilty partner in her sin—by some obvious hypocrites who were using her sin to trap Jesus into showing himself too strict or too lax. Jesus responded with mercy but with truth: "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."

But leave that for Aug 29. Today the focus is on his witness to Jesus that marked the shape of John's life. Think about it.

- the announcement to his father Zechariah of John's birth:  
"He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord."
- his embryonic jump for joy:  
"How does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy."
- his austere call in the wilderness to repentance and to prepare the way of the Lord:  
"the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. He went throughout [the] whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: 'A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord."'"
- his declaration that Jesus is:  
"the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" and that  
"I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel."
- his declaration about his own baptizing:  
"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming.  
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire."
- and about his unworthiness to baptize Jesus:  
"John tried to prevent him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?'"
- his questions through his own disciples while he was under arrest about the precise identity of Jesus:  
"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

We are celebrating today the whole life and person of one about whom we know so few details but about whom we know so much of his witness to Jesus. Happy Birthday.

—Father Kessler

# Father Tyron Tomson

Ordained on May 27, 2011

*From the Catholic Times, June 5, 2011, by Tim Puet, reporter*

Father Ty Tomson said he first thought about becoming a priest at a young age and always knew that whatever his vocation, it would involve serving the Catholic Church. By the time he graduated from Columbus St Charles Preparatory School, he felt certain of his call to the priesthood.

“Attending St Charles was life-changing for me,” he said. “I loved it. I had such a good overall introduction to the faith at St Charles, with intellectual stimulation and opportunity for discernment.”

During his senior year at the school, he applied to secular colleges, as most high school seniors would, but knew the Lord wanted him to enter the seminary. “It is never wrong to say yes to God,” he said.

Father Tomson, 26, originally is from Zanesville, where he attended St Nicholas School through second grade. His family then moved to Pickerington, where he attended public schools before going to St Charles. He was a parishioner at Worthington St Michael Church before his ordination.

During his childhood, he played the piano, but had a desire to learn to play the organ. “The piano is great, but with the organ you can really shake the buildings,” he said. The organist at Pickerington St Elizabeth Seton Parish gave him lessons in January 2000. Father Tomson played the organ there and at Columbus Holy Cross Church while in high school.

During his time at Holy Cross as organist, Father Tomson met a seminarian from the Pontifical College Josephinum who was on assignment at the downtown Columbus church. He also met another young man who was entering the seminary – Father Dan Dury, who was ordained a priest last year [*Father Dury is now pastor of St Catharine Parish in Columbus, where Father Kessler is moving in mid-July 2018*].

“People help in the discernment process,” said Father Tomson. “I got involved in (Columbus) St Patrick’s youth group and perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at Seton Parish, and a lot of people encouraged me along the way. I also began the doing the Liturgy of the Hours in high school and I had a routine of daily prayer.”

He was also inspired by priests he met at St Charles. “Msgr (Thomas) Bennett was so inspiring and such a witness to the faith,” Father Tomson said. “Every morning, he celebrated Mass at the side altar of St Joseph in the St Charles chapel all by himself. What an example of fidelity. He had such a great love for daily Mass.” When he passed away, Msgr Bennett left Father Tomson the chalice from his own ordination.

Another spiritual influence for Father Tomson was his study of the Greek language in high school and in college. He also has a Latin-language background and studied Hebrew in a summer program at the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

After graduating from St Charles, Father Tomson enrolled as a seminarian at the Josephinum and majored in philosophy and classics (Latin and Greek).

“Meeting other seminarians is essential when you are discerning between college and seminary. You need friends who can relate directly to you,” he said. “I loved many aspects of seminary life. You pray and you have the Breviary, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Rosary. You wake up in the morning and the first thing you think about is being a priest. You are falling in love with the Church and you realize that this is for real.

“I think for all of us there are ups and downs in seminary life, but God gives you so much grace to align your will to His. You make sacrifices, but with grace, it is enjoyable. It is a good sweat, but grace transforms it into a light burden.”

Father Tomson describes a vocation as a call to love, no matter what God calls you to be. “You want to return his love, much like two married people when they first fall in love,” he said. “You are building a personal relationship with the Church based entirely on love. The consummation of that love for a priest is the consecration of the Eucharist.”

Father Tomson completed his formation at the Josephinum, where he was ordained a transitional deacon in January 2011. “My ordination to the diaconate was a great moment of grace for me and for so many who were able to join me that day,” he said.

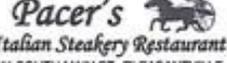
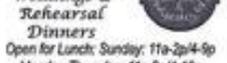
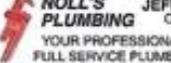
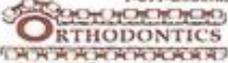
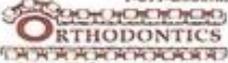
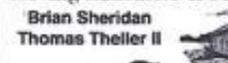
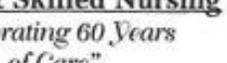
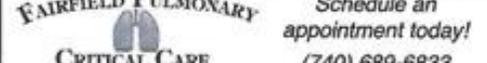
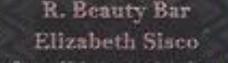
In reflecting about seminary life, he said, “It is so inspiring to have 130 men with a total love of God. It is the greatest fraternity the world has ever known, with spiritual brothers around the world.”

Father Tomson’s summer assignments and a school year serving at Columbus Immaculate Conception School helped him to live the daily routine of parish life. “There is such a harmony in parish life with prayer and the Sacraments, and so much variety meeting the needs of the people,” he said. “No two days are the same. You have the expected routine, with the Sacraments and schedule, and then you have the unexpected things with the lives of people in the parish.”

Father Tomson sees the priesthood as complete abandonment to the will of God. “Your relationship with the Lord has to be first, and everything else flows out of that. No one gives what he does not have,” he said.

He reflects that celebrating the Sacraments, especially the Mass and Confession, is at the heart of his priestly life. “This is what we are ordained for: to give glory to God and sanctification to man,” he said.

He described his ordination as a moment of particular joy: “My ordination to the priesthood will always be the best day of my life. Ordination is a sublime gift, of which no one is worthy. The Church needs priests and the Lord continues to call men to His altar. It is saying ‘Yes’ to His will,” Father Tomson said.

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