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I am the Gate

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with great pleasure that I announce that one of our parishioners, Zachary Smolak, has discerned that God is calling him to consider the possibility of becoming a priest. He was recently accepted into the formation program at Borromeo Seminary in Wickliffe, Ohio. Zach is the son of Mike and Mary Smolak and he has three brothers and one sister. He is a graduate of St. Bernadette School and will be graduating from St. Ignatius High School at the end of the school year. In addition to Zack, another son of our parish, Seamus O'Malley, is completing his first year of formation. Please join me in congratulating Zack and praying for him as he begins this time of intentional discernment of a vocation to the priesthood. When I arrived at my assignment here fifteen years ago, I said to myself there is a potential for future vocations in this parish. As I am about to conclude my years as the Pastor of St. Bernadette, it brings me great joy to inform you that we have two parishioners who are discerning their calling to priesthood in our seminary. —Fr. Philip



Being the fourth of five children, I grew up in a household full of many personalities and lots of different interests. Captivated by Star Wars and Spiderman, apparently another interest of mine happened to be about being a priest. In first-grade, we had a "make your own book" assignment. I wrote that I wanted to be a priest in the "about the author" section. To be perfectly honest, I didn't even know what that meant at the time. Continuing through grade school, however, an openness to the possibility of the priesthood remained with me. Although it was often overshadowed by the more important things of life - kickball games and junior high crushes, by the time I reached high school the idea began to resurface more seriously. As my faith deepened through service opportunities and theology classes, and through the guidance of Fr. Racco and Fr. Joe, I began to understand more fully what it means to be a priest. In their witness, I saw more clearly the beauty and depth of their service to the Church. Through our many conversations, the people I have encountered, and my own life experiences, I have come to sense that the Lord is calling me to enter the seminary. To my surprise, I discovered that the seminary is not a "priest factory." My time encountering the seminary community quickly changed my perspective and strengthened my conviction that this is where I am called to be. It is a place of comfort, challenge, growth, and healing - everything I had been searching for, even before I had the words to express it. As I prepare to begin at the seminary this fall, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Fr. Jeff Barnish, Fr. Kevin Fox, Fr. Philip Racco, and especially Fr. Joe Menkhous for their invaluable witness to what it means to share in Christ's priesthood. I am also deeply grateful to all those who have supported me with their prayers on my journey discerning. Thank you! —Zachary Smolak



Prayers of the congregation are requested for the repose of the soul of: **Robert Goede.**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And may perpetual light shine upon them.

+ Intentions for the Week +

Monday, April 27, Easter Weekday

9:00 Parents of Fr. Racco

Tuesday, April 28, Easter Weekday

8:00 Rev. James A. O'Neill (Anniv)

Wednesday, April 29, Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

9:00 Terry McDonald

Thursday, April 30, Easter Weekday

8:00 Don Dawson

Friday, May 1, Easter Weekday

9:00 Marlowe Jurec

Saturday, May 2, Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00 Special Intention—Doug and Colleen Colman
Wedding Anniversary

5:00 Thomas Madden

Sunday, May 3, Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30 For the Parish

10:30 Michael Orbany

Flowers for our Blessed Mother You are invited to bring flowers to honor our Blessed Mother on Mother's Day weekend and all through May.



Please pray for: Mickey Gallagher; Barbara Waitkus; Loretta Verhiley; Cailyn Wagner; Linda Mencke; Dan Curran; Fr. Lanning; Gerri Popovich; Frank Stepic; Nancy Thorn; Bobbie Corrigan; John Dawson; Natalie (Partee) Hallis; Mackenzie Miles; James Tunney; Mandi Petonic; Mercedes Aemilia Scullion & her Da; Bernadette Andrews; Roberta Werner; James Faddoul; Herbert Hastings; Lynda Arth; The Bartko Family; Vicki Gannon; Lydia Caroline Milligan; Ellen Burch; Rob Geszler; Betty Logue; Evan; Janice Thomas; Mary Burich; Michael Coyne; McKayla Coyne; Tom Seltel; John Keys; Mary Mertus; Leslie Ann Kosenta; Greg Harrison; Carol Brown.

Bulletin Sponsor of the Week

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Friday Adoration, May 1, 2026

**Mass 9:00 AM; Adoration 10AM-5PM;
Benediction 5:00 PM**

Two guardians are needed each hour between 10:00AM-5:00PM. Please call the Parish Office to sign-up.

First Saturday, May 2, 2026

8:00AM Mass; Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession.

ATTENTION—First Communion Information

Mass Time

Practice Time

Saturday, May 2nd, 5:00PM
Sunday, May 3rd, 10:30AM

April 28 at 6:30PM
April 29 at 6:30PM

A friendly reminder...The Cry Room, located inside the church to the right of the confessional, is reserved for parents with children. We welcome your children to be part of the liturgy and not in the Community Room, but when necessary the Cry Room is available. We ask that parishioners do not use it unless you are a parent with children. Thank you!



On behalf of the Edna House for Women, I would like to thank you for your donation. Your commitment to helping recovering women in our community is sincerely appreciated. Through our program, we have seen over 1,900 lives changed for the better, and our goal is to continue to make a difference. With the help of donations from supporters such as you, we will continue to see improvements in helping women on the path to recovery. Thanks again for your generous support! —Sarah Murphy, Executive Director, The Edna House for Women

Residents find the love of God in the people at Joseph & Mary's Home. Your donation helped give our residents the ability to rest, recover and be renewed. Their paths toward a better tomorrow is made possible because of your generous spirit. Thank you for sustaining our mission of helping neighbors heal and achieve independence. — Colleen Corrigan Day, Senior Director of Major Gifts, Sisters of Charity Healthy System

Thank you for your generous gift to Zelie's Home. Our goal is to empower pregnant and parenting women to act positively and confidently for themselves and their children. Your contribution directly impacts the lives of the mothers and babies we serve, helping create stability, hope, and a stronger future for their families. — Erin Hathaway, Executive Director, Zelie's Home



One Wednesday a month, from Noon until 1:30 PM, all those who are “**YOUNG AT HEART**” and over **50 (!)** are invited to attend a gathering in the Community Room. The purpose is to join with other parishioners, meet some new friends, enjoy lunch together, a short presentation of various kinds, and a time to chat together!

Given limited spacing, reservations are necessary. Our maximum capacity is 30 – this number includes couples and individuals.

Join us for Young at Heart on Wednesday, May 6th from Noon to 1:30PM in the Community Room.

Topic: The Holy Spirit is Alive and Active Today! Really? Where?

Presenter: Reverend Joseph H. Callahan

Fr. Callahan will explore this important question at our Young at Heart May 6th gathering. He is well-equipped spiritually to help us discern the Presence of the Spirit! Fr. Callahan has extensive parish experience here in Cleveland and has also served for sixteen years as a diocesan-priest missionary in El Salvador. Currently, he is pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Cleveland.



Please submit your registration with the lunch fee to the PARISH OFFICE.

Do not use the Collection Baskets at Church.

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Lunch fee: \$15.00 per person; tea, coffee, water included

Questions? Confidential Contact– Sister Donna Marie at 440-734-1300

____ Registration confirmed ____ Lunch fee enclosed

Ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine

The ministry of Joseph & Mary’s Home cares for 21 medically fragile homeless adults by providing medical respite after hospitalization. About 80 patients are cared for per year. Upon transition to other housing sources after recovery, a “gift bag” of essentials helps them begin a new life with hope and dignity.


St. Bernadette Parish is blessed to assist with a goal of 40 items of each listed below. Gifts need to be “small” but not travel items. If we exceed our goal, other service agencies who care for the needy will benefit from your generosity.

A Sign-Up Genius link is available to indicate needed items. Information will also be on the website under ‘Social Concerns’ tab. Parishioners are welcome to donate on the weekend of May 23 and 24.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4FA5AF2CA1FB6-62588663-Joseph>

Item	Description	Item	Description
Mouthwash	Small bottle (non-alcohol)	Dish detergent	Small squeeze bottle
Hand lotion	Small bottle or tube	Scrub sponge	For dish washing
Combs	Men	Can opener	Small manual type
Hairbrush	Women’s small	Cutlery	3 or 4 pc stainless steel
Deodorant (Women)	Solid Stick	Potholders	Potholder
Shampoo	Small bottle	Laundry bag	Mesh bag
Body wash	Small pump bottle	Pump hand soap	Liquid pump
Deodorant (Men)	Solid stick	Tissues	Kleenex box
Toilet Paper	4 pack	Paper towels	1 pack
Bath Towel	Standard size	Kitchen towel	Standard size
Wash cloth	Standard size	Small laundry detergent	Small e.g. 25 loads

DON’T BE A VICTIM! Protect yourself from scams and frauds on your phone, internet, and credit card! **What TO LOOK FOR? What NOT TO DO? What TO DO?** Step-by-step information will be presented by parishioner Frank Benkalowycz on Tuesday, May 12th from 1:00-2:00PM in the Community Room.



The next Baptism Class will be held on Sunday, May 31, 2026 at 12:00PM in the Community Room in the church. Call the Parish Office to register.

Christ Present in Action Committee Sandwich Making
 We start our activity at 1:30PM in Dempsey Hall. Feel free to bring sandwiches from home noting their contents. **Our next sandwich making days are May 13th & May 27th. There will be NO sandwich making on April 29th.**

Deacon Joseph’s Ordination On Saturday, May 16th, Deacon Joseph will be ordained to the priesthood. His first Mass will be celebrated at 5:00PM on the 16th at St. Bernadette. A reception for the newly ordained Father Joseph will follow in Dempsey Hall. His parents, Mr. & Mrs. Ho, his aunt and sister will be in attendance. They will stay at the seminary while in Cleveland. Reception plans are now in place. Further information will be made available closer to May. If you have any questions, please call Mary Egan in the Parish Office.

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