

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Palm Sunday

March 20, 2016

Dear parishioners,

Today we begin the most holy of all weeks. We remember the events of our salvation. We remember the price that has been paid for our lives—our eternal lives.



I believe that it is easy to dismiss this enormous gift because we focus on Jesus divinity—as if it were no big deal because he knew that he was going to rise again. That is far from the truth.

Scripture tells us he was like us in all things but sin. This means he felt deeply the rejection, humiliation, fear, sadness, and immense physical and emotional pain of the passion. He trusted his Father's love. This was his assurance.

Jesus paid for our disobedience. His Father is not a monster who would settle for nothing less than his son's suffering and death. Rather he allowed his son Jesus to live out a life of integrity that led to his death. Jesus did not waffle about what he knew to be the truth. He knew that he had come to reveal his Father's love and that meant eating with sinners, touching lepers, healing on the Sabbath, associating with tax collectors and prostitutes, pointing out hypocrisy, and speaking of a moral life that called for more than the Ten Commandments.

Showing us how much God loves us cost him his life! What am I willing to sacrifice this week to participate in celebrating his great love this week? Our secular world makes that difficult because it wants to go on as if this week is not holy. Let's make a commitment to enter into this mystery.

Sister Carol

We extend our sympathy to Sharon Carroll and her family at the death of her mother Betty Wieser. May she rest in peace.

Weekend Masses

Sat Mar 19 4:00 p.m. Ellen VonLehmden
Sun Mar 20 10:00 a.m. For a Christian outcome of the presidential election

Easter Vigil

Sat Mar 26 **8:30 p.m.** Libby Schmenk

Easter Sunday

Sun Mar 27 8:00 a.m. For the parish
Sun Mar 27 10:00 a.m. Madeline Palmer

Communion Services

Tue Mar 22 10:30 a.m. Richland
Fri Mar 25 **NO SERVICE TODAY** at St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,618.00	Loose	\$506.00
Children	\$ 42.79	Total	\$3,166.79

84 envelopes returned = 40%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for March 26 & 27, 2016

Money Counters: Deb Goldenetz and Barb Galvan

Due to so many ministers for the services of Holy Week we ask you to see the bulletin insert or the bulletin board.

8:30 p.m. EASTER VIGIL

See bulletin insert for schedule or check bulletin board.

8:00 a.m. EASTER SUNDAY

See bulletin insert for schedule or check bulletin board.

10:00 a.m. EASTER SUNDAY

See bulletin insert for schedule or check bulletin board.

Readings for March 27, 2016

Easter Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43

2nd Reading Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-9



There is no 4 o'clock Mass on Holy Saturday, March 26th. The vigil Mass is at 8:30 p.m.

Also there is no Children's' Liturgy of the Word on Easter Sunday.

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Holy Week schedule:

Tuesday, March 22 – Chrism Mass to bless the new oils at Rosary Cathedral

Wednesday, March 23 – Stations at 6:30
Tenebrae at 7:00

Thursday, March 24 – Holy Thursday – Mass at 7:00 p.m. followed by adoration in the chapel of repose until 11:00 p.m.

Friday, March 25 – Good Friday – Cross Walk at 11:30 beginning at St. Mary's parking lot
Ecumenical service at noon at Bluffton Presbyterian
Our service at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 26 – Holy Saturday – Vigil service and baptism at 8:30 p.m. There will be NO 4:00 Mass that day!

Sunday, March 27 – Easter Sunday – Mass at 8:00 a.m. and 10 o'clock a.m.

Parish mini-retreat

Part of the "Living the Eucharist" faith sharing experience is a closing retreat. The planners want to invite anyone interested to share in this mini-retreat on Sunday, April 10. We will share lunch immediately after Mass, hear a presentation, discuss the presentation, and close with *lectio divina*.

Thank you to Diana Bucher for making the "Open the Door to Mercy" signs for above our doors for this extraordinary Year of Mercy. **Thank you** to Greg Conkling for the idea. **Thank you** to the Eucharistic ministers for so faithfully cleaning up after each Mass.

Good Friday Collection Pope Francis has asked our parish to support Christians in the Holy Land. Through the Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace in a troubled land. Christians, along with all of the clergy and religious who serve in the holy Land, will deeply appreciate your prayers and financial help! The political, religious and military challenges in the Holy Land are more complex than ever. Our parish will support Christians in the Holy Land through the Good Friday Collection. Like Simon of Cyrene, you can help carry the cross under very difficult circumstances in the Holy Land. See the bulletin insert on How The Papal Good Friday Collection is used. Please be generous!

Attention Married Couples. Easter Sunday is like a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend because it's a weekend full of fresh love, rebirth, and new beginnings. All married couples deserve a richer, fuller life together! A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will help you enjoy life with a new closeness to each other and God. You don't need it – you **DESERVE** a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend! For more information or to apply for a weekend, contact Brian & Chris Schroeder at 419-538-7210 or bschroeder@bright.net. The next weekend in the Toledo Diocese is April 1-3, 2016 in Perrysburg.

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville is asking for your support of a petition to stop genocide in the Middle East and convince the U.S. Department of State to include Christians in any formal declaration of genocide. "For months, the Catholic Church has been a voice for Christians and other religious minorities facing the evil of deadly persecution." Archbishop Kurtz said. "Please, make sure your name is added to the witness. The very future of the ancient Christian presence in the Middle East is at stake." The petition is available at: www.stopthechristiangenocide.org.

P.R.E.P

We are looking for help preparing the meal for the First Communion Retreat on Saturday, April 2, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Please email Kelly at www.khski7@aol.com if you are able to help. There is also a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Children's Liturgy of the Word is during the 10 o'clock Mass.

K-6: Class is Wed., March 23rd from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Jr. Hi & God Squad: Class is today, Sunday, March 20th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.