

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 24, 2014



Dear parishioners,

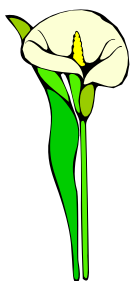
I recently listened to a presentation called "The Jesus Question" which was related to the questions in the gospel, "who do people say I am?" and "who do you say I am?" The speaker named it as an essential question for us.

Many people in our culture "practice" their religion as a cultural religion—it's something they belong to or it's something that they do. They lack personal relationship with Jesus. Being Christian is not essentially about the things we do. Being a Christian means that we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that Jesus IS God. Once we realize the inscrutable and unsearchable ways of God in sending Jesus to be one of us to show us the way, our response is to give thanks and praise, to join in Jesus' sacrifice of himself in the Eucharist, to join in community with others who believe, and to live a life that is modeled after Jesus'.

Take some time this week to reflect on your life and see how God has been present and how God has blessed you in small, surprising ways and in big, essential ways—like giving you life and calling you to believe in God.

Faith is a gift, but being a disciple is a decision.

Sister Carol



Congratulations to Heather Gerten and Tyler Fenstermaker who were married here this weekend. We wish you many happy, grace-full years together.

Weekend Masses

Sat Aug 23	4:00 p.m.	For the parish
Sun Aug 24	10:00 a.m.	Dorothy Herrmann
Sat Aug 30	4:00 p.m.	Teresa Rieman
Sun Aug 31	10:00 a.m.	For the parish

Communion Services

Tue Aug 26	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Aug 29	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,330.10	Loose	\$858.00
Children	\$ 27.85	Total	\$3,215.95

78 envelopes returned = 37%

Thank You for your generosity!

Assignments for August 30 & 31, 2014

Money Counters: Janet Begg, Jason Granger

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Basil Meyer

Cantor: Sr. Carol

Ushers: Bob Minto and Mike Klima

Lector: Laura Jones

E.M.: Anna Crisp, Basil Meyer, Rosemary Meyer

Servers: Alyson and Abigail Kettels

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Judy Lester

Greeter-West door: Basil Meyer

Cantor: Matt Meyer

Ushers: Mike and Serena Maag

Lector 1: Matt Ellerbrock

Lector 2: Pat Lugibihl

E.M.: Crystal Ellerbrock, Jerry Wehri, Candace Vance,
Dave Gerschutz, Matt Meyer

Servers: Drew and Ken Lovett

Readings for August 31, 2014

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

2nd Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-27

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church or if you know someone who is, you/they are invited to our initial RCIA meeting Thursday evening, August 28, at 7 o'clock. There is no obligation connected with this meeting. It will be an informational meeting.

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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS

WHO DONATED DOOR PRIZES, BINGO PRIZES, CORN-ON-THE COB, AND THE USE OF BINGO SUPPLIES for our 150th KICKOFF CELEBRATION:

Applebee's, Arby's, Black Lab Trading Co., Bluffton Golf Course, Bluffton Senior Center, Chase Bank, Cheddar's, China Wok, Cracker Barrel, Dari Freeze, Dietsch's, East of Chicago, Ideal Images, Kathy Burkholder, Luke's Bar & Grill, M & R Plumbing, Marathon Gas Station, McDonald's, Mustard Seed Café, Olive Garden, Outback Steakhouse, Padrone's Pizza, Panache Floral & Interior, Polished Nail and Body Salon, PromoHits, Rancho Fiesta, Shannon Theatre, Shirley's Popcorn, Sister Carol, Spectrum Salon, Sports Warehouse, Suter's Produce, Texas Roadhouse, Family True Value, Tu Pueblo.

Pastoral Council members, please pick up your copy of The Joy of the Gospel from the shelf in the main entrance. Your assignment is attached. Please plan ahead for our first meeting for the year—Tuesday evening, September 2, 6:30. We will begin with supper.

Going on a Marriage Encounter Weekend doesn't mean you're saying, "My marriage needs help". You are saying, "I care about my marriage and it's my priority. I'm setting a whole weekend aside to refocus on my spouse and my marriage." The next Marriage Encounter weekend is October 17-19, 2014 at Howard Johnson in Lima, Ohio. To register go to www.wvme.org or contact Brian and Chris Schroeder at 419-523-7210 or bcschroeder@bright.net

Putnam County Hospice will offer training for prospective volunteers beginning in September. The training will take place at the Putnam County Home Care and Hospice office, 139 Court Street, Ottawa. Hospice volunteers offer companionship to patients, respite to the caregivers, assistance with administrative tasks, as well as assistance with special events and fundraising projects. Putnam County Hospice is looking for volunteers in all areas, but is especially in need of licensed massage therapists and individuals with musical talent willing to join the volunteer team. If you are interested in becoming a hospice volunteer or would like more information, please contact Kathy Rellinger, Putnam County Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at 419-523-4449 or krellinger@pchh.net.

If you have a child in PREP or SNLY and have not yet picked up a 2014-2015 registration form, forms and schedules can be found in the church entrance. Please complete both the front and back of the form and return it by dropping it off in the parish office or putting it in a collection basket in an envelope marked "PREP Registration."

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Community Supper this week with set up, donations of food, cooking, serving, and clean up.

Reflection with a Cup of Tea: Coming Home to Yourself will be offered on September 9th from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in Fremont, Ohio. Based on Venerable Catherine McAuley's emphasis on Mercy hospitality with a cup of tea, this morning will offer nourishment for body, mind, and spirit with light refreshments and a presentation on faith and spirituality. Prayer and reflection will be on your longing for coming home to yourself and your thirst for God. Presenter: Sr. Marianne Longo, RSM, former Director of Our Lady of the Pines for over twenty years is now involved full time in the ministry of spiritual direction. Cost: \$7 (Registration is required.)



Men mark your calendars. That Man is You begins at Ottawa Sts. Peter & Paul on September 13. Modeled on some of the country's leading men's programs, That Man is You combines Scripture, solid secular research, and a little fun to address the pressures and temptations facing men in our modern culture. It seeks to form authentic leaders who will be capable of transforming homes and society. Check www.thatmanisyou.org for more details on the program. To register contact Deacon Jim Rump (jrump1@woh.rr.com or 419-523-3137) or Leo Recker (mareckerl@bluffton.edu).

Save the Date for Lift Jesus Higher Rally, November 8, 2014 at Seagate Centre, Toledo.