

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 7, 2014

**We are all
bound
together
by the Lord**

Dear parishioners,

The readings today are troubling. If we don't tell people what God wants and they don't turn their lives around, God will hold us responsible. I am occasionally asked, "What will happen to people who never had a chance to be baptized?" My response is, "I don't know, but I wonder if they will be responsible or if I will be for not going out to the ends of the earth and making disciples."

In our culture we are so pressured to be politically correct. We are not supposed to criticize anyone for their life choices. Even more, we are barely permitted to speak our own beliefs and values without someone jumping down our throats!

I am amazed when young couples come in to prepare for marriage who are already living together. They will often say their parents are fine with this arrangement. Interesting.

I don't believe we need to hop up on a soapbox and start preaching right and wrong. There may be a time you are called upon to do that. Generally, we need to speak up when the situation arises—whether or not your belief is popular. The gospel says to first go alone to tell your brother when he sins against you. It doesn't say to gossip about him first. It doesn't say to gang up on him with an entourage. Talk to him/her one-on-one first. If that doesn't work, take two or three witnesses with you. If that doesn't work, tell the church.

I don't know that I have that kind of integrity and courage. It IS what Jesus calls us to—to confront evil. Let's pray we can do what is needed when it needs to be done.

Sister Carol

Congratulations to Kevin and Emily Shappell on the baptism of their daughter Kinley Jayne. Welcome to our Church, Kinley.

Weekend Masses

Sat Sept 6	4:00 p.m.	Murphy & Immele families
Sun Sept 7	10:00 a.m.	Dennis Warren
Sat Sept 13	4:00 p.m.	Jim Alt
Sun Sept 14	10:00 a.m.	Jeanette Brunswick

Communion Services

Tue Sept 9	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Sept 12	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,657.00	Loose	\$299.00
Children	\$ 33.55	Total	\$2,989.55

81 envelopes returned = 39%
Thank You for your generosity!

Assignments for September 13 & 14, 2014

Money Counters: Josh Barhorst, Jason Granger

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Jan Emmert and Diana Sabater

Cantor: Jenny Roby

Ushers: Dave and Joel Siefker

Lector: Jason Swartzlander

E.M.: Jessica Wischmeyer, Jeanne Parinello,
Jack Marcum

Servers: Derek Swartzlander and Courtney McLaughlin

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Mel Heitmeyer

Greeter-West door: Sherry Heitmeyer

Cantor: Choir

Ushers: Mike and Serena Maag

Lector 1: Brian Miller

Lector 2: Matt Ellerbrock

E.M.: Julia Miller, Audrey Miller, Cathy Hermiller,
Crystal Ellerbrock, Diana Bucher

Servers: Kaden Reneker and Jonathan Schriener

Readings for September 14, 2014

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

1st Reading: Numbers 21:4b-9

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17

The parish extends sympathy to Pam Phillips and her family on the loss of her husband Eldon. May he rest in peace.

The Finance Council will meet Tuesday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m.

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You will notice that the vinyl floors in the social halls, hallway, kitchen, and restrooms are all sparkling clean. We had them professionally done—first time in seven years that they were stripped, finished, and burnished. We chose to have them professionally done because it is a lot of work and we have neither the equipment nor the personnel to do an adequate job.

Confirmation Next Sunday, September 14, at the 10 o'clock Mass we will present the Confirmandi who will begin in earnest their preparation for the sacrament. This class will be confirmed at Rosary Cathedral on Saturday, March 28, at 11 o'clock by our new bishop Bishop Daniel Thomas. Please keep the Confirmandi and their sponsors in your prayers, encourage and support them. "It takes a village to raise a child."

The Respect Life Office of Catholic Charities will host an "Academy for Life" on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at Rosary Cathedral in Toledo. The event is designed to equip, train and energize the pro-life community. Join us as we learn to articulate the culture of life in our homes, churches, schools, workplaces and the public square. The Academy is open to all ages and will include presentations on pro-life apologetics and Mass. The event is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is \$10 and includes breakfast. For more information or to register, please contact Respect Life Program Coordinator Peter Range at: prange@toledodiocese.org or at 419-244-4860 ext. 220.

Catholic Charities Sunday Our parish will host a second collection at Masses on the weekend of Sept. 20/21 in support of Catholic Charities Diocese of Toledo. Catholic Charities is celebrating 100 years of bringing the love and mercy of Christ to people in need and helps over 40,000 people each year through emergency shelter, food, crisis navigation, adoption services, jail and prison ministry and more. Learn more and watch a short video about the work of Catholic Charities at www.catholiccharitiesnwo.org. Thank you for your generosity.

Mezzo-soprano Bethany Babcock will present her **Bluffton University senior recital** at 2:30 p.m. today in Yoder Recital Hall. Admission is free.

Unique Opportunity: 2-3 host families are needed to house the college-aged NET Retreat missionaries visiting St. Mary's on Saturday September 27th to Sunday the 28th. Host families will welcome the visitors Saturday evening, provide a place for them to sleep, and offer them a breakfast at your home. As you consider this opportunity please keep in mind: missionaries bring their own sleeping bags and are willing to sleep on a floor or mattress, you may chose the number and gender of the visitors (2-4), this is Bluffton HS's homecoming night so be sure you can accommodate the visitors. Please call or email Jessica Wischmeyer by September 17th (419-230-0228, jwischmeyer@embarqmail.com) if you are interested in being a host family.

P.R.E.P

We are still in need of catechists for Kindergarten, 5th Grade and Confirmation. Anyone who is interested can contact Kelly Honse at 419-358-8631 or email khski7@aol.com.

Live Life to the Full: NET Retreat at St. Mary's All 7-12th graders are invited to attend the National Evangelization Team's Retreat on Sunday September 28 at St. Mary's. The retreat will begin with 10 a.m. Mass and conclude at 4 p.m. This retreat is required of all 7th and 8th graders as fulfilment of the Confirmation retreat. Preliminary information was mailed this summer and registration forms have been mailed this week to parish families with 7-12th graders. Extra forms can be found in the church entrance. The cost is \$10 per student. Please return your registration form and fee to St. Mary's by Tuesday September 23 so we may plan meals and space accordingly.

St. Mary's website has recently been updated to include current PREP & SNLY forms and the 2014-2015 calendar. If desired, families can download and print these documents from our website.