

St. Mary's Catholic Church

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 14, 2014

Dear parishioners,

Pope Francis says in his apostolic exhortation "*Evangelii Gaudium*"

"The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience."

All of that is profoundly true. All those characteristics have crept into our practice of the faith as well. Many people treat parish and church and religion as if it were a store where you can consume goods at your pleasure. If we don't like what is offered in one place we go to shop in another. How many times have we heard someone say they left their parish because the music wasn't good, the homilies weren't interesting, the Masses were not at a good time, there wasn't enough for children to do.... None of that has to do with commitment either to God or to our brother and sisters in the parish. It has to do with what I want—consumerism.

Only occasionally do we hear someone offer to head up a program or volunteer to help. We want the service, but we don't want to have to take responsibility to make it happen. These are signs of "a complacent yet covetous heart."

There is a dearth of commitment in our culture. We don't want to commit because something better might come along, and we are good at making excuses when we don't keep our word. We're so good at "forgetting" or being "so busy" or "so stressed" or having so many activities for our children that there is little room for family, service or faith.

This might be a good day to examine my life and see if I am complacent, covetous, desolate, pursuing frivolous pleasures, or allowing a blunted conscience. Let's be more true to our word and to our commitments.

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

Sat Sept 13	4:00 p.m.	Jim Alt
Sun Sept 14	10:00 a.m.	Jeanette Brunswick
Sat Sept 20	4:00 p.m.	Janet Maenle and Mel Schroeder
Sun Sept 21	10:00 a.m.	Teresa Rieman and Eldon Phillips

Communion Services

Tue Sept 16	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Sept 19	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,705.25	Loose	\$401.00
Children	\$ 19.86	Total	\$3,126.11

72 envelopes returned = 34%
Thank You for your generosity!

Assignments for September 20 & 21, 2014

Money Counters: Chad Wolford, Angie Wenger

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Basil Meyer
Cantor: Steve McCullough
Ushers: John Parinello and Chuck Niese
Lector: Jim Kinn
E.M.: Diana Bucher, Jennifer Tschuor
Servers: Alyson and Abigail Kettels

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Steve Yarnell
Greeter-West door: Kelly Yarnell
Cantor: Kevin Vance
Ushers: Jerry and Jeanne Wehri
Lector 1: Judy Lester
Lector 2: Joe Herrmann
E.M.: Amy Marcum, Kim and Josh Garmatter,
Tricia Herrmann
Servers: Joel Siefker and Anthony Kiser

Readings for September 21, 2014

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16a

Remember our website: www.stmarysbluffton.org

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.

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St. Mary's Parish History

DID YOU KNOW?

Paris Owens' grandfather, Henry Owens, fought with his father and three brothers in the White Boy Rebellion in Ireland in 1798. This was an uprising against the oppression of farmers and Catholics. Henry's father and two brothers were captured and executed. Henry and one brother escaped and migrated to the United States. When they arrived, Henry lost his brother and never saw him again.

2014 Jubilee Wedding Anniversary Mass & Reception will be at Our Lady Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral on October 19, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Join Diocesan Administrator, Reverend Charles F. Ritter, and the Office of Marriage and Family Life as we commemorate 25, 40, 50, 60, and 60+ years of marriage for couples in the diocese of Toledo. A reception featuring refreshments and the distribution of commemorative certificates will follow. Please register through your parish.

OKTOBERFEST will be held at St. John Catholic Church in Lima, Ohio on Saturday, October 4, 2014 at the St. John Church Hall from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m., featuring the Lima Fest Musikauten. Tickets can be purchased at St. John Church office at 222 S. West St., Lima, Ohio for \$20. Your ticket includes Snacks, German Fare Dinner, Dancing, Sing-a-long, and games of chance. Proceeds to assist the Restoration Fund.

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.

THANK you to both Libby Schmenk and Anna Parker (also a grandniece of Paris Owens) for purchasing for us the Owens window from the original church. **Thank you** to Sherri Heitmeyer for all her time and energy weeding and dead-heading. **Thank you** to The Eucharistic Ministers for so faithfully cleaning up after the Masses.

The Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, Carey, OH invites you to come for the annual Family Day on Sunday, September 28th. Mass will be celebrated at noon in the Shrine Park, followed with a free picnic lunch and Rosary procession. All are welcome! For more information call the Shrine office, 419-396-7107 or www.olcshrine.com.

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.

P.R.E.P

We are still in need of catechist assistants for 3rd and 5th Grades. 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 fulfillment 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.