

St. Mary's Catholic Church

First Sunday of Lent

February 14, 2016



Dear parishioners,

Two wonderful celebrations have fallen together on this first Sunday of Lenten. We may want to be somber. We need to celebrate today!

Tom and Jan Schulte are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. As I image it I would suspect that means they are celebrating the gift of finding each other, the gift of choosing each other, the gift of fidelity, the gift of family, and the gift of all the experiences they have shared over fifty years. That's a lot to celebrate, and we surely wish you, Jan and Tom, happiness and many more years together.

We also celebrate the Rite of Sending with Tori Halcomb. She is completing a year and a half of preparation to be baptized and to share in God's divine life. The rite is the parish's affirmation of her desire. We say to her that we have seen her effort and her sincerity and that we continue to support her particularly today as she makes her request to Bishop Thomas to be joined to the universal Church. She too celebrates the gift of God's choice of her, the gift of fidelity to the preparation, the gift of the community that has supported her, the gift of all that is yet to come. That's a lot to celebrate, and we pray for her many years of faithful service and joy in her commitment.

Pope Francis invites us during Lent to fast from indifference to people. We are happy that we have this blessed opportunity to rejoice with Tom, Jan, and Tori in their happiness.

Congratulations!!

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

Sat Feb 13	4:00 p.m.	Jim Alt, Tim Kahle, Ralph Wischmeyer
Sun Feb 14	10:00 a.m.	Janet Maenle, John Rooney
Sat Feb 20	4:00 p.m.	Libby Schmenk
Sun Feb 21	10:00 a.m.	Art Schram

Communion Services

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

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,078.00	Loose	\$394.00
Children	\$ 37.43	Total	\$3,509.43

85 envelopes returned = 40%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for February 20 & 21, 2016

Money Counters: Jason Granger and Janet Begg

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Basil Meyer

Cantor: Steve McCullough

Ushers: John Parinello and Chuck Niese

Lector: Jim Kinn

E.M.: Diana Bucher and Jennifer Tschuor

Servers: Brayton and Addison Businger

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Kelly Yarnell

Greeter-West Door: Steve Yarnell

Cantor: Choir

Ushers: Jerry and Jeanne Wehri

Lectors: Judy Lester and Joe Herrmann

E.M.: Amy Marcum, Mark Zwiebel, Tricia Herrmann,
Hank Schroeder

Servers: Joel Siefker, Anthony Kiser and
Makayla Schweingruber

Readings for February 21, 2016

Second Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:17—4:1

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28b-36

Tom and Jan Schulte celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary today, Sunday, February 14, 2016. They would like to invite all the parish family to their Open House Celebration today from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., here in the church hall. Hope to see you there.

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Lenten opportunities

Every Wednesday during Lent we will have Stations of the Cross at 6:30 and Mass at 7:00. Every Thursday from 8:00-9:00 there will be opportunity for Adoration.

This Lent there will be no Penance service. There will be instead additional opportunities for private confession: before each Mass on Saturdays and Sundays, on Wednesdays, March 2 and March 16 from 5:00 to 6:30 (7:00) and after Mass until all who wish have received the sacrament.

As you know, there are two days of fasting (only one full meal) for those between 18 and 59—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. These two days and all the Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence (no meat) for those ages 14 and onward.

Don't forget that the season calls us to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We are called to change our hearts.

Another Lenten option Last weekend we let you know about a phone app giving you nuggets of inspiration for the Year of Mercy and/or a daily e-mail message for Lent. Another option is at www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent. It is called "Don't give up chocolate this Lent." It also will deliver to you a daily message of inspiration.



Beat the winter Blues!

Join us for an evening of Fun and Fellowship.

Adult Turn-up Euchre Tournament

Saturday, February 20th

6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Bluffton, Social Hall

\$5 per person entry fee. Sandwiches provided. Please bring snack to share. BYOB! Round-Robin play – rotating partners. Singles & couples welcome. Prizes to be awarded to top 3. Please sign up on counter in main entrance.

The Diocesan celebration honoring persons with disabilities will be on Saturday, February 27, at the 5:30 pm Vigil Mass, St. Aloysius Church, South Summit & Clough Streets, Bowling Green. Bishop Daniel Thomas, celebrant, will present the 2016 Open Arms Awards. American Sign Language interpretation will be provided. All are welcome.

Catholic Charities is hosting a **40 Days for Life Campaign** in northwest Ohio from February 10 through March 20. You can participate in three ways: prayer and fasting, community outreach and peaceful vigil. Sign up at www.40daysforlife.com/toledo. To learn more, email Peter Range at prange@toledodiocese.org. Join the movement and help us end abortion in northwest Ohio! For more information see the flyer on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Year of Mercy – 24 Hours for the Lord and The Light is On As part of our observance of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy called for by Pope Francis, the Diocese of Toledo will be holding two diocesan-wide initiatives during Lent. On March 4th and 5th, a special time of prayer with opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, called "24 Hours for the Lord," will be held in certain designated parishes in each of our fifteen deaneries. Also, on the Wednesdays following this event, we will hold "The Light is On" Campaign, wherein priest-confessors will be available in all the parishes of the diocese to hear confessions during the day and evening. Please visit the Diocese of Toledo's Year of Mercy website for more information: www.toledodiocese.org/yearofmercy

P.R.E.P

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

K-6: Next class is on Wednesday, February 17th, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Mass will be at 7:00 p.m.

Jr. Hi & God Squad: Next class is Sunday, February 21 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.