

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Third Sunday of Easter

April 10, 2016



Dear parishioners,

The apostles were practicing civil disobedience. They had been told not to preach about Jesus anymore. They decided that doing what Jesus had commanded them was of greater significance than a civil order.

We seem to have it backwards today. Our culture is disobeying God and trying to make moral what is legal. The two are not the same.

Look at abortion, capital punishment, or euthanasia. A person's life is the most precious gift he/she has. No one may take another's life. Somehow a group of people in our country think that legal makes right. It doesn't. God's law always trumps civil law.

The commandments were given to us for our growth and protection. The sixth commandment forbids sex outside of marriage--mostly to protect the right of a child to a stable home. Extramarital sex is looked upon as the norm in the entertainment industry. Sexuality is pedaled to sell products. What God gave to us as a sacred share in creation has been cheapened beyond the ability to recognize its sacredness.

Rutgers University has done a study on divorce and discovered that cohabitation is the single greatest predictor of divorce. Even couples who call themselves Catholic have bought into their "right" to live together before marriage. They are blind to God's law believing that living together will help them know each other and will strengthen their marriage. Rutgers has shown that nothing is farther from the truth. Sometimes the real reason is instant gratification. Having to wait is just too much to ask!

Seeing the apostles so much value Jesus' command gives us cause to evaluate our own conduct. Am I doing what God wants or what I want?

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

Sat Apr 9	4:00 p.m.	Ed Murphy
Sun Apr 10	10:00 a.m.	Leonard & Sally Rieman
Sat Apr 16	4:00 p.m.	Jim Alt
Sun Apr 17	10:00 a.m.	Dorothy & Cyril Sterrett

Communion Services

Tue Apr 12	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Apr 15	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,510.00	Loose	\$532.00
Children	\$57.01	Total	\$4,099.01

87 envelopes returned = 42%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for April 16 & 17, 2016

Money Counters: Deb Buck and Deb Goldenetz

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 April 17, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52

2nd Reading: Rv 7:9, 14b-17

Gospel Reading: John 10:27-30

Remember to keep bringing in your Community Market receipts so we can turn them in for Reward dollars. This money is used for Religious Ed programs here at St. Mary's.

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Thank you to Kelly Honse, Jenny Lovett, and Laura Jones for coordinating a wonderful retreat for the First Communicants. **Thank you** to Tom and Jan Schulte for tending to the well-being of our Easter flowers. **Thank you** to all of you who through your Easter memorial contributions made it possible to enjoy these lovely flowers and offer them to God in praise of Jesus' resurrection! **Thank you** to the Pastoral Council members, especially Shar Dunlap, for planning and coordinating the mini-retreat. **Thank you** to Beth Yarger and all those who helped with registration, hosting, and cookie baking for the Red Cross blood drive. **Thank you** to Bethany Barnhart and Julia Miller for coordinating the Family Promise volunteer training.



St. Mary Parish will host Family Promise here at our parish the weeks of June 12-19 and October 30-November 6. Bethany and Julia will let you know what specifically we need as the times approach. Please do pray that this ministry will be of benefit to the families we serve and to us.

The Year of Mercy In these last seven months of the Year of Mercy the Pastoral Council would like to direct our attention to the practice of the corporal works of mercy:

- Feed the hungry.
- Give drink to the thirsty.
- Clothe the naked.
- Shelter the homeless.
- Free the prisoner.
- Visit the sick.
- Bury the dead.



This month of April we will focus on the first corporal work of mercy by collecting food and money for our local food pantry. Last week's bulletin lists the things needed. We will take up a second collection next weekend April 16-17.

You're invited to St. John's UCC, 223 W. College Avenue in Bluffton for a Beef and Noodle Dinner on Friday, April 22 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner includes beef, noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, apple sauce, roll, homemade pie and beverages. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

Save the date! By popular request the second annual parish picnic to celebrate being a parish, being around for 151 years, being generous on a regular basis.... The second annual parish picnic will be held Sunday, August 14, 2016, after the 10 o'clock Mass. If you'd be willing to help with the planning and the execution, talk to Lisa Welch.

Catholic Charities is now accepting applications for **Century Farm Awards**. Century Farm Awards honors Catholic families who have maintained a farm or homestead within their family for at least 100 years with an emphasis on well-preserved working farms. Applicants will be asked to submit a registration form, copies of old deeds, and pictures to support claims. The information must show family residence and ownership of a farm for at least 100 years. For more information or the registration form, please contact Jill Holmaas at (419) 244-6711 ext. 214 or jholmaas@toledodiocese.org.

Pops Concert Four Bluffton University musical ensembles will come together Friday, April 22, to present the annual Pops Concert at 7:30 p.m. in Yoder Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public. Providing instrumental music will be the university's Jazz Ensemble and Concert Band, both conducted by Dr. Roy Couch, assistant professor of music. Dr. Mark J. Suderman, professor of music, conducts both performing choral groups, Camerata Singers and the University Chorale. Accompanying the Chorale's performance will be Ana Yoder Coulter on piano. The concert will feature a mix of Broadway tunes, secular music and songs with an international flair.

P.R.E.P

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

K-6: Next class is Wednesday, April 13th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Also there is First Communion Practice.

Jr. Hi & God Squad: Next class is Sunday, April 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is the last class until the fall.