

St. Mary's Catholic Church

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 4, 2016



Dear parishioners,

Building a building and waging a war are both difficult, costly, and lengthy endeavors. You give a lot of thought to entering that kind of project. Being a disciple of Jesus is also difficult, costly, and lengthy. Jesus didn't trick us into membership. He tells us over and over: "Whoever does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

Although giving our life to Jesus and Jesus' service does bring a deep sense of joy and peace, Jesus never promised us that being his disciple would make life easy and we'd always feel really good.

A couple of us went to a workshop this week, and we were told that sin is contagious. Sociologists have learned that when something easy, lazy, pride-filled, ego-building begins to happen in society, it doesn't take long before people rationalize it to be "good." They gave the example of abortion which is always evil, but which we in our country have rationalized to be "good" because it "protects" a mother's "right to choose" and so we have made it legal. We know deep down that even if something is legal it is not moral.

That's just one example of why the Christian life is difficult. It is hard to stand up for right when everyone around us is cheering for the other side. We may even be ridiculed for our belief.

We need the strength and mercy of God to count the cost and recommit to building the kingdom of God and waging war against evil.

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

Sat Sept 3	4:00 p.m.	Rita Agner Murphy/Immele family
Sun Sept 4	10:00 a.m.	Betty Wieser
Sat Sept 10	4:00 p.m.	Jerry Musser
Sun Sept 11	10:00 a.m.	Dennis Warren

Communion Services

Tue Sept 6	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Sept 9	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,674.00	Loose	\$553.00
Children	\$61.00	Total	\$3,288.00

80 envelopes returned = 38%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for September 10 & 11, 2016

Money Counters: Chad Wolford and Janet Begg
4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Jan and Diana Emmert

Cantor: Jenny Roby

Ushers: Dave and Shirley Siefker

Lector: Jason Swartzlander

E.M.: Jerry Wehri, Jeanne Parinello,
Amanda Wooley

Servers: Derek Swartzlander and Courtney McLaughlin

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Sherry Heitmeyer

Greeter-West Door: Mel Heitmeyer

Cantor: Kevin Vance

Ushers: Mike Maag and Nick Marcum

Lectors: Brian Miller and Matt Ellerbrock

E.M.: Julia Miller, Jenna Kimmel, Cathy Hermiller,
Crystal Ellerbrock and Candace Vance

Servers: Kaden Reneker, Josh and Nathan Meyer

Readings for September 11, 2016

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-32

Don't forget to save your Community Markets receipts and turn them in so we can get Reward dollars for the Religious Education programs here at St. Mary's.

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RCIA: *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*

We will continue our RCIA journey on Thursday evening, September 8, at 7 p.m., in the church library. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church, this is where it all begins. Please join us.



R U Called On Thursday evening, September 22, St. Mary's will host with the Diocese of Toledo vocation department an evening of information and discernment for young women who are interested in (or at least willing to give consideration to) religious life. We need a few crock pots of various soups for the supper that evening. We also need a couple of people to wash dishes and clean up. There is a sign-up sheet on the shelf in the main entrance. (Confirmation candidates are welcome to help!)

Pastoral Council supper and meeting are Tuesday evening, September 6, beginning at 6:30, in the parish social hall. Please have read the introduction and first chapter of The Name of God Is Mercy.

The catechists will meet for their opening meeting on Wednesday evening, September 7. The evening will begin with supper at 6:30.

Catholic Divorce Ministry A 12-week divorce & separated support group, Catholic Divorce Recovery, will be hosted by Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Ottawa. The Catholic Divorce Recovery program was created to help divorced or separated Catholics by offering support and healing through the wisdom and truth of the Catholic faith. Meetings will be held in the SPPS library on Tuesday evenings at 7PM beginning September 27. A registration fee of \$20 includes the cost of a workbook, materials, and refreshments. For more information or to register, call Jeanne Beutler at 419-615-2298.



Prayer for Peace Friday, September 9, has been proclaimed a Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities. To observe this special occasion we will have adoration before the Blessed Sacrament for one hour beginning at 8 o'clock that night.

Mini-Retreat We have set the date and topic for our first mini-retreat for the year. The date is Sunday, November 13. We will begin with lunch immediately after Mass. The topic is Islam so that we learn about it as an Abrahamic religion with the same root as Christianity. Tamara Al-Sammarraie Mansi will be our presenter. She will also point out what is held in common by Moslems and Christians. This is an extremely important topic in our world today. Mark your calendars now.



Today is a special day! In a special ceremony today Pope Francis will canonize Mother Teresa of Calcutta. St. Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us. Open our hearts to care tenderly for the poor.

Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage. Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. For more information about our October 7-9th Retrouvaille Weekend program for couples, contact Joe and Arlene @ 419-841-1116 or visit our website: HelpOurMarriage.com

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word will start class on Sunday, September 18th during 10 a.m. Mass.

K-6: Class will start on Wednesday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

God Squad and Jr. High Classes will start on Sunday, September 18 after Mass from 11 - 1 p.m.

We are still in need of two more catechists. If you are able to help, please call Kelly.

Also, we are looking for **walkers** for Weekday Christian Ed classes at Bluffton. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you are interested in helping.