

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 5, 2017



Dear parishioners,

"You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world." The lectors' workbook reminds us that the gospel passage says. "you are." It doesn't say you could be or you should be. It says you are! We already are salt and light. As Thomas Merton became aware, because we have the very life of God within us through baptism, we are like bright shiny suns walking around!

The challenge of today's gospel is to BE that. What if the salt loses its flavor? It is good for nothing. So we need to BE salt of the earth. The first reading tells us to share our bread with the hungry, to shelter the oppressed and the homeless, to clothe the naked, to pay attention to those around us. That is how we make a difference in the world. That is how we are salt.

We are light for the world. We are signs of love and hope. We do not give in to despair because we know that God is greater than any situation we face here. So don't hide the light of God's love and faithfulness. Be bold. Show your hope to the world. Put your light on a lampstand and let it shine for the world to see.

Don't underestimate the gift that God has given you! Own it humbly and gratefully and then give it to the world.

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

Sat Feb 4 4:00 p.m. Libby Schmenk
Sun Feb 5 10:00 a.m. Eldon (Ike) Businger
Sat. Feb 11 4:00 p.m. Ed Murphy
Sun Feb 12 10:00 a.m. Janet Maenle

Communion Services

Tue Feb 7 10:30 a.m. Richland
Fri Feb 10 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults \$2,712.00 Loose \$601.00
Children \$20.64 Total \$3,333.64
80 envelopes returned = 38%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for February 11 & 12, 2017

Money Counters: Tonya Meyer and Deb Buck
4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Jan Emmert and Diana Sabater

Cantor: Jenny Roby

Ushers: Dave and Shirley Siefker

Lector: Jason Swartzlander

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

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, Candace Vance

Servers: Kaden Reneker, Josh and Nathan Meyer

Readings for February 12, 2017

Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:17-37

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St. Mary's Catholic Church - Bluffton, OH

Thank you to Edna Conkling and to all who helped in any way with the Community Supper.

The Pastoral Council will meet Tuesday, February 7, at 7:00 o'clock. Read Chapter 5 to prepare for discussion.

Reconciliation

Wednesday evening, February 15, from 6:30 until 7:30, the PREP students grades 2 through 6 will have an opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. Both Father Stites and Father Howe will be here. Everyone else is welcome to come and celebrate the sacrament also.



World Day for Consecrated Life In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church. **Please pray for our Women and Men in consecrated life.**

Entering Canaan Men's Day of Prayer and Healing will be held on Saturday, Feb. 18. Men suffer from abortion too! If you are carrying the pain and sorrow of losing a child to abortion(s), you are not alone. Find support from other men who are suffering during our "Entering Canaan Men's Day of Prayer and Healing," on Saturday, February 18. The day retreat is hosted by Catholic Charities Diocese of Toledo's Project Rachel ministry. For more information and confidential reservations, please call Project Rachel Coordinator Clarissa Lapinski at 1-888-456-HOPE or email projectrachel@toledodiocese.org. Come and experience the mercy of God!

The Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, Carey, OH, is hosting a mission, "**60 Minutes for Jesus**" with Father Jim Sichko. Father Jim will be using real-life experiences and relating them to the gospel message of Jesus Christ with scripture, storytelling, laughter and praise. Father Jim is a truly gifted preacher and evangelist from the Diocese of Lexington, KY, and in February 2016, Pope Francis commissioned Father Jim as one of his Papal Missionaries of Mercy. The Basilica was blessed last August when he preached our Assumption Novena, and we enthusiastically invite Father Jim back to be the homilist at all of our Masses the weekend of February 25th (5:30pm) and February 26th (9:00am and 11:00am). We will continue our mission on Sunday, February 26; Monday, February 27; and Tuesday, February 28, all beginning 7:00pm in the Basilica. All are invited to join in the mission.

Fr. Joshua Wagner - Delphos Parish Mission Join St. John the Evangelist in Delphos for our mission, "Bringing Heaven to Earth!" A Three Night Parish Mission presented by Father Joshua Wagner, Roman Catholic Priest of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, this mission will be held on February 13th, 14th, and 15th at 7:00 p.m. Confessions will be offered following the Mission on February 14th. The talks will be conducted at St. John's Catholic Church (331 E. Second St. Delphos, Ohio 45833). Three nights, three incredible topics - February 13th - Making Christ Present in the Family; February 14th - Healing our Relationships; and February 15th - Inspiration in the Spirit: Imitating the Blessed Mother. For more information about Fr. Joshua Wagner or the parish mission, please visit www.FatherWagner.com/delphos.

P.R.E.P

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

K-6: Class is Wednesday, February 8 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Also there is a First Communion Meeting for the parents.

Jr. High: Class is today, Sunday, February 5th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

God Squad: Class is today, Sunday, February 5th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.