

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 26, 2017



Dear parishioners,

We've made another turn of the calendar and are standing at the door of Lent again. I know this season takes some preparation—thoughtfully choosing our Lenten practices, planning for meatless meals for Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent, setting aside a time for prayer and reflection. You can't do it all on Ash Wednesday! No doubt most of you are working on your plan already.

This season was originally begun to support those preparing for baptism. We are blessed this year with two catechumens—Mark Willis and Robert Flores. This practice is still extremely relevant. They are taking an enormous step in their lives. They are committing to a life of witness, fidelity, and service. They deserve our prayers and support!

The season is also a time when we ourselves prepare to renew our own baptismal commitment at the Easter Vigil. Lent is a season to examine our own lives to see where we are failing or where we are lukewarm in our commitment to our baptismal promises. It's not just 40 days of "doing" some penance. Lent ought to change our hearts.

I hold you all in my heart and in my prayers that these next weeks will be a time of growth and blessing.

Sister Carol



Begin to make your plan for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for Lent. It's only three days away! Wednesday, March 1st we will have a Communion Service with ashes at Noon. Also, Mass with ashes is at 7:00 p.m.

Weekend Masses

Sat Feb 25	4:00 p.m.	Cassie Kiene
Sun Feb 26	10:00 a.m.	Chris Sterrett
Sat. Mar 4	4:00 p.m.	Bill Shackelford Sr.
Sun Mar 5	10:00 a.m.	For the Parish

Communion Services

Tue Feb 28	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Wed Mar 1	10:30 a.m.	Hilty

First Friday

Fri Mar 3	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's
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SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,093.00	Loose	\$778.00
Children	\$53.65	Total	\$3,924.65
87 envelopes returned = 42%			

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for March 4 & 5, 2017

Money Counters: Chad Wolford and Barb Galvan

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Peg Murphy

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink

Ushers: Dave and Mary Hoffer

Lectors: Caitlyn Couch

E.M.: Jessica Wischmeyer, Brianna Atkins,
Basil Meyer

Servers: Zane and Grace Myers

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Logan Welch

Greeter-West Door: Lisa Welch

Cantor: Karen Phillips

Ushers: Trent/Todd and Colin Phillips

Lectors: Mel Heitmeyer and Shannon Wannemacher

E.M.: Wes Lovett, Lisa Welch, Logan Welch,
Megan Dulle and Mackenzie Butler

Servers: Drew and Ken Lovett, Jonathan Hoorman

Readings for March 5, 2017

First Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

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Thank you to Kelly Honse, Ceresa Meyer, and Deacon Michael Marcum for preparing our young men and women for the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Thank you** to their parents and sponsors for your support and participation. **Thank you** to all the high school and junior high parents who take your turns preparing a meal for our students. We are very grateful!



If you picked up a registration form for Marriage Encounter, remember to send it in soon. If you are interested in participating but did not get a registration form last weekend, there are some

available in both entrances.

Friday Soup and Bread You have one more option for the Living the Eucharist small group sharing. This will be at noon on the Fridays of Lent beginning March 3 through April 7. We will have a simple meatless soup and bread while we share. You can still sign up on the sheet in the main entrance.



Living the Eucharist You still have time to sign up for a small group for faith sharing. The sign-up sheets are on the shelf in the main entrance.

Eucharistic Minister Training/Parish Mini-Retreat Don't forget to sign up if you are coming. Eucharistic Ministers, you are expected! The date is Sunday, March 12, immediately after Mass.

March 20 Prayer Vigil for the Abolishment of the Death Penalty in Ohio

Never underestimate the power of prayer! People of all faiths across Northwest and West Central Ohio are invited to gather to pray for the victims of crime, those facing execution, and the abolishment of Ohio's death penalty. A Candlelight Vigil for Life will be held on Monday, March 20, at 7 p.m. at St. Gerard Parish, 240 West Robb Avenue, Lima, OH, with Rev. Michael D. Sergi presiding.

After a three-year hiatus, Ohio's plans to resume executions by lethal injection in 2017 are on hold. Ohio's first execution in three years is now scheduled for May 10, 2017. See the flyer on the bulletin board.

If you prefer to get your daily Lenten reflection by e-mail, you can try www.bestlentever.com with Matthew Kelly.

Sign-up sheets for the Partners in Prayer prayer chain are on the cabinet this weekend. If you would like to join our group to pray for the needs of others, please provide your name and email address. Partners will be commissioned at the 7 p.m. Mass on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. Anyone who would like to receive prayer, please contact Rosemary Meyer, 358-0631, Pat Lugibihl, 358-0665 or Kathy Sehlhorst 358-4765 or cksehlhorst@gmail.com

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St. Mary's Catholic Church - Bluffton, OH

7th ANNUAL ECUMENCIAL CHOIR FOR GOOD FRIDAY

The Good Friday Ecumenical Choir, *Adoramus*, is looking for members to sing a musical reflection on Good Friday, April 14, at 12:00 noon, in the Basilica of Our Lady of Consolation. Rehearsals will be held in the choir loft of the Basilica on Sunday afternoons, beginning on Sunday, March 5 at 1:00 p.m. Contact the Basilica's music director, Mr. Jack Gerding, music@olcshrine.com or 419-396-7107, if you have any questions and to reserve a musical score. Singers high school age and up are welcome to join.

Emmanuel United Church of Christ Fish Fry will be held at the church at 8375 Phillips Road, Bluffton, Ohio on Friday, March 10, 2017 from 4-7 p.m. The cost for Adults is \$8.00 and Children 10 and under is \$4.00.

All the fish you can eat! The menu also includes: Potato Salad, Calico Beans, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Cranberry Salad, Taco Salad, Broccoli Salad, Mixed Fruit, Layer Salad, Perfection Salad, Macaroni Salad, Apple Salad, Green Bean Casserole, Hot Cheese Potatoes, Pickled Eggs, Macaroni and Cheese, Cherry Dessert, Cakes, Cookies, Pie.

P.R.E.P

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

K-6: Class is Wednesday, March 1st from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mass for Ash Wednesday is at 7:00 p.m.

Jr. High & God Squad: Next class is Sunday, March 5th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.