

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Second Sunday of Lent

March 12, 2017



Dear parishioners,

Peter, James, and John have been following Jesus for a long time now. They have heard him preach, heal the sick and lame, calm storms, drive out devils. They have also walked with him all over Galilee and the surrounding territory. They've eaten with him, camped with him, laughed with him, been astounded by him. Now Jesus takes Peter, James, and John on an adventure alone. Once they get to the top of the mountain, Jesus glows with light and appears with Moses and Elijah. Then a loud voice proclaims, "This is my beloved Son."

Scripture scholars tell us this is the revelation that, not only is Jesus human; he is divine. At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, at his baptism, the voice from heaven proclaimed Jesus to be the beloved Son. Now as Jesus' ministry draws to a close in his passion and resurrection, the Father again proclaims his love and absolute support of his beloved Son.

Moses represents the Law; Elijah represents the prophets. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets.

The three disciples are speechless with fear. Jesus tells them to not be afraid, and the experience comes to an end. The story is told so that we might know what Peter, James, and John came to know that day. How does this experience affect your relationship with Jesus? Take some time to allow your imagination to enter into this transfiguration experience.

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

Sat Mar 11	4:00 p.m.	Jim Badertscher
Sun Mar 12	10:00 a.m.	Dorothy Sterrett
Sat. Mar 18	4:00 p.m.	Eldon (Ike) Businger Joan Higbea
Sun Mar 19	10:00 a.m.	Janet Maenle

Communion Services

Tue Mar 14	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Mar 17	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,935.00	Loose	\$603.00
Children	\$53.11	Total	\$4,591.11

90 envelopes returned = 43%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for March 18 & 19, 2017

Money Counters: Jason Granger and Janet Begg
4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Jeanne Parinello
Cantor: Steve McCullough
Ushers: John Parinello and Chuck Niese
Lectors: Jim Kinn
E.M.: Diana Bucher and Jennifer Tschuor
Servers: Brayton and Addison Businger

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Steve Yarnell
Greeter-West Door: Kelly Yarnell
Cantor: Steve McCullough
Ushers: Greg and Gabe Denecker
Lectors: Chris Denecker and Joe Herrmann
E.M.: Amy Marcum, Mark Zwiebel,
Tricia Herrmann, Hank Schroeder
Servers: Luke Denecker, Olivia Smallcombe,
Kendal Giesige

Readings for March 19, 2017

Third Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Exodus 17:3-7
2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42

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

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Thank you to Cathy Hermiller and Betsy Schwab for preparing the meal for the parish retreat. **Thank you** to the Pastoral Council for providing help with sign-up and clean-up. **Thank you** to Dan Garrett for help with the sound system. **Thank you** to all who took seriously the invitation to grow and came to the retreat.

The Finance Council will meet on Tuesday evening, March 14, at 7:00 o'clock, for the annual budget meeting.

Lenten schedule:

Wednesday, March 15

6:00-6:45 - Confessions

6:30 – Stations of the Cross

7:00 – Mass



Friday, March 17, is the feast of St. Patrick. For that one day the bishops have lifted the obligation of abstinence. So feel free to enjoy your corned beef and cabbage.

Follow us on Facebook:

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Bluffton, OH

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. See the bulletin board in the narthex for more information.

A Catholic education is not out of reach with a scholarship from the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund

Did you know that your child may qualify for a Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund scholarship for the 2017-2018 school year? Need-based Scholarships worth up to \$1,500 per child are available for Catholic schools or \$500 for homeschooling expenses for students who reside in Allen, Hancock, and Putnam County for grades K-8th. For example a family of five with a household income of \$76,788 is eligible. To apply online or for more information about the program visit WWW.NOSF.ORG or contact the Northwest Ohio

Scholarship Fund office at (419) 720-7048. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 28, 2017.

If you are interested in helping students go to a private school, you can do it with a gift to NOSF. All gifts to NOSF may be tax deductible to the extent of the law. Visit WWW.NOSF.ORG/Donate-now

If you are moved to help the food pantry for your Lenten almsgiving, there is a list of the things they need for March that would be helpful on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Bridge Home Health & Hospice will offer training courses for prospective volunteers beginning on Tuesday, March 21 and continue for six consecutive Tuesday's, concluding on April 25. The sessions will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Hub Conference Room at Birchaven Retirement Village, Findlay, Ohio.

Courses will cover topics such as the basic principles of hospice, understanding the special needs of patients and their families, effective communication, patient care, pain and symptom management, spiritual care giving, and understanding grief and loss. No previous hospice experience is required; however, volunteers must be at least 18 years old. Following training, volunteers can choose a special area of involvement. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to request an application packet, contact Julie Tiell, volunteer coordinator, by phone at 419-423-5351 or by e-mail at jtiell@bvhealthsystem.org.

P.R.E.P

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

K-6: Class is Wednesday, March 15th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mass at 7:00 p.m. (for grade 3).

Jr. High: Next class is Sunday, March 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

God Squad: Next class is Sunday, March 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Attention parents: There is a correction on the PREP calendar for Masses during Lent. March 22nd we will have Mass for Kindergarten, 4th and 5th grade students. On April 5th, we will have Mass for grades 1 & 6.

Start filling those Rice Bowls.