

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 9, 2025

# St. Mary Catholic Church

Diocese of Toledo/Staffed by Redemptorists

160 N. Spring St., Bluffton, OH 45817 (419-358-8631)



**MASS SCHEDULE**  
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday at 9:00 a.m.  
 Thursday at 12:00 Noon  
 Saturday at 4:00 p.m.  
 Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
 Holy Day of Obligation - Vigil Mass 7 p.m. (night before)  
 Holy Day Mass at 9:00 a.m.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
 First Friday - 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
 Wednesday 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

February 9, 2025

Dear Friend:

One of my favorite pastoral visits at a former parish was to a 95 year old gentleman. Our conversation would invariably drift back to his childhood and what it was like growing up during the Great Depression. It was hard to imagine all the changes this man had seen over the years.

Transportation has moved from horse and buggy to space travel; housing has experienced innovations that have gone from out-houses to multiple baths, with conveniences like whirlpool tubs, kitchens have moved from an open hearth to a microwave, from vegetable cellars to refrigerator-freezers, from cooking supper to eating out, and the list goes on!

We live in the wonderful world of change! With all these wonderful technological innovations one would expect that our lives would become more enjoyable and more relaxed. Instead, we have become the most stressed out generation of all time, and it only gets worse. And Christians are not exempt from this stress and pressure.

Jesus, being fully human, also lived amid considerable pressure. He experienced people besieging him for help in overcoming sickness, disease, demon possession, and the many ills of society.

How did Jesus avoid succumbing to the stress and pressure life brought on him? Why did he not become angry and stressed out? First of all, Jesus maintained a life that was centered on the Father, and on doing his Father's will. This singleness of purpose and desire to please the Father in everything brought calmness in the midst of turmoil and clear direction in his life. All other expectations were perceived and evaluated through this singular lens of the Father's revealed will.

Second, Jesus being fully human, came to experience the human condition in every way but sin. As an infant, he relied on Mary his mother to feed him and nurture him. He relied on Joseph his foster father to teach him a trade. Together, Joseph and Mary taught young Jesus the Law and the Prophets of the Jewish faith. His parents taught Jesus how

## CONFESSIONS

Saturday, 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.  
 Wednesday, 9:30 - 10:20 a.m.  
 First Friday, 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

**OMPH Devotions**  
 Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

## WELCOME to St. Mary



## MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary Parish is a Christ-centered home for growing in holiness, living a sacramental life, and following Jesus by serving one another and the community.

## INFANT BAPTISM

Preparation class 3rd Sunday every other month - 9:00 a.m. - Call office

## MARRIAGE

6 month notice for marriage prep. Please call office for appointment.

## SACRAMENT of the SICK

Please call office for appointment.

## PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Please visit parish website.

## BLUFFTON UNIV. STUDENTS

Welcome!

(continued from Page 1)

to love and how to pray. Being fully human, Jesus needed companionship; that's why we know he would often stop in Bethany at Martha and Mary's for a rest and perhaps a good meal.

In today's Gospel, we can almost hear Jesus saying, "Now I want you to complete the work I began." Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." Human companionship was important for Jesus, but Jesus could never have completed his mission on earth if he had not taken time to be with his Father in prayer.

During these times of aloneness and abandonment, Jesus went to his Father in prayer. There he found direction, strength and determination to continue his saving mission. And for us also, it is in our moments of solitude with the Father that we are able to become anchored spiritually, to discover and re-discover who we are, why we are created, and how we should live.

In a few weeks we will begin the holy season of Lent by being called into the desert with Jesus to be alone with the Father; to seek strength and direction in our life, by listening to God. Let us begin today to find that place to 'be alone' with the Father so he can speak to our hearts.

May Mary our Mother of Perpetual Help protect you and keep you safe always.

Fr. John

*Saint of the Week*  
*St. Scholastica*  
*February 10th*



Scholastica was born in Italy around 480 and is believed to be the twin sister of St. Benedict of Nursia. She is traditionally regarded as the foundress of the Benedictine nuns. She and St. Benedict were born of wealthy parents and brought up together until Benedict left central Italy for Rome to continue his studies. Little is known of Scholastica's early life but she founded a religious community for women near Monte Cassino at Plombariola, five miles from where her brother governed a monastery. The twins visited each other once a year in a farmhouse because Scholastica was not permitted inside the monastery. These times were spent discussing spiritual matters. According to the *Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great*, the brother and sister spent their last day together in prayer and conversation. Scholastica sensed her death was close at hand and begged Benedict to stay with her until the next day. He refused her request because he did not want to spend a night outside the monastery, thus breaking his own Rule. Scholastica asked God to let her brother remain and a severe thunderstorm broke out, preventing Benedict and his monks from returning to the abbey. Benedict cried out, "God forgive you, Sister. What have you done?" Scholastica replied, "I asked a favor of you and you refused. I asked it of God and he granted it." Brother and sister parted the next morning after their long discussion. Three days later, Benedict was praying in his monastery and saw the soul of his sister rising heavenward in the form of a white dove. Benedict then announced the death of his sister to the monks and later buried her in the tomb he had prepared for himself. Scholastica and Benedict gave themselves totally to God and gave top priority to deepening their friendship with him through prayer. They sacrificed some of the opportunities they would

**COLLECTION**  
**February 2, 2025**

Envelopes	\$2,821.00
Loose	\$ 510.88
Children	\$ 33.00
On-Line 1/27-2/2	\$ 470.00
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$3,834.88</b>



Sunday & On-line 69 = 40%

*Thank you for your generosity!!*

The Redemptorists  
Baltimore Province

Explore  
YOUR VOCATION

**"COME AND PRAY" WEEKEND**  
**FEB. 21 - 23 at Ephrata, PA**

Free and Open to Single,  
Catholic Men 18-45

Discern Your Vocation

Celebrate Your Faith

Share Your Story

Fr. Peter Linh, CSSR at 267-252-2977 or  
quoclinhcssr@gmail.com  
Fr. Denis Sweeney, CSSR at 443-336-1685 or  
dsweeneycssr@gmail.com

**St. Anthony's Engaged Couples Conference**  
**512 W. Sycamore Street**  
**Columbus Grove, Ohio**  
**March 1, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.**



If you are planning on getting married this year, this conference is your opportunity to attend the Engaged Couples Conference to be held Saturday, March 1st, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with donuts & coffee. Cost of the day is \$40.00 per couple. Any couples interested, please call the parish office at 419-659-2263. Payment can be dropped off or mailed to the parish office or can be made the morning of the conference.

(continued from Column 1)

have had to be together as brother and sister in order to better fill their vocation to the religious life. In coming closer to Christ, however, they found they were also closer to each other. Scholastica died on February 10, 543 at the age of 62-63. She is the patron saint of cloistered nuns.



**Pastor:** Rev. John Murray, C.Ss.R. - [pastor@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:pastor@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com)  
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**Sick & Homebound Ministers:** Deb Buck @ 419-348-7266 or Kathy Housh @ 419-230-9278  
**Head of Finance Committee:** Jim Yarger - [finance@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:finance@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com)  
**Parish Council President:** [parishcouncil@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:parishcouncil@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com)



## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

February 15 & 16, 2025

Money Counters: Gabe Denecker & Tonya Meyer

### Saturday, February 15, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

M/H: Jon Davis & Colton Davis  
 Reader: Ashley Davis  
 E/M: Kevin Vance, Diana Bucher, Marlena Ballinger  
 Servers: Davis Family

### Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

M/H: Mike Schulte & Gavin Schulte  
 Reader: Deb Hohenbrink  
 E/M: Cathy Hermiller, Jerry Wehri, Tricia Herrmann  
 Servers: Ethan Hoffman, Kaufman Family

### Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

M/H: Greg Denecker & Gabe Denecker  
 Reader: Amy Tabler  
 E/M: Wes Lovett, Betty Gerten, Joe Braidic  
 Servers: Hohenbrink Family

## Readings February 16, 2025 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8  
 Responsorial: Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6  
 2nd Reading: 1Corinthians 15:12, 16-20  
 Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### Saturday, February 8 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:00 p.m. Confessions  
 4:00 p.m. Mass

### Sunday, February 9 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass for intention of Jan Schulte †  
 9:00 a.m. OCIA  
 9:30 a.m. Religious Ed.  
 10:30 a.m. Mass for intention of St. Mary Parishioners  
 11:30 a.m. Youth Group  
 11:30 a.m. Coffee & Donuts

### Monday, February 10 - Feast of St. Scholastica

No Mass

### Tuesday, February 11 - Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

9:00 a.m. Mass for intention of Tim Kahle †

### Wednesday, February 12

9:00 a.m. Mass for special intention  
 9:30 a.m. OLPH  
 2:00-3:00 p.m. Holy Hour

### Thursday, February 13

12:00 noon Mass

### Friday, February 14 - Feast of Sts. Cyril & Methodius

9:00 a.m. Mass for intention of Lavern Hermiller †

### Saturday, February 15 - Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

3:00 p.m. Confessions  
 4:00 p.m. Mass for intention of St. Mary Parishioners

### Sunday, February 16 - Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass for intention of Lou Ann Hermiller †  
 9:00 a.m. OCIA  
 9:30 a.m. No Religious Ed  
 10:30 a.m. Mass for intention of Jim Alt and Kathy Sehlhorst †  
 11:30 a.m. No Youth Group  
 Afternoon Dragon Slayer Retreat at Delphos St. John

  
**Together For Good**  
 Share Your Generous Gift Today at [acatoledo.org](http://acatoledo.org)!

*"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."*  
 -Romans 8:28



You most likely have received a letter from Bishop Thomas asking for your gift and/or pledge to support the ministries of the Diocese of Toledo. This letter gives all registered parishioners an opportunity to contribute to the Annual Catholic Appeal themed **Together for Good**. The ACA will be successful if every member of our parish carefully considers their circumstances and truly strives to give a significant gift. Please give prayerful consideration to your level of support to help fund the essential ministries and services supported by the Appeal. Through our contributions, we can assure the continued existence of many important programs that help tens of thousands in our diocese including supporting the education of our seminarians, caring for the sick and needy, and providing faith formation for our youth. The goal assigned this year to St. Mary Parish is \$17,329.10. To learn more, visit [acatoledo.org](http://acatoledo.org). Thank you!

### Catechesis Corner

Let's see the answer to the question from last week, **"May the Gospel be recited from memory? Must we stand?"** The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* in front of the Sacramentary calls upon all to stand for the reading of the Gospel. However, the celebrant of a Mass in a nursing home might tell all to sit or remain sitting. Concerning the proclamation of the Gospel from memory, Father Thomas Richstatter, O.F.M., who teaches liturgy at Saint Meinrad Seminary, states:

The practice is not sufficiently widespread to bring any official comment. The opinion of liturgists, professors of homiletics and professors of communication arts is mixed. Against the practice are those who say that it is a reading and should be read. They say there must be a connection between the reader and written text, the Lectionary. Supporting the practice are those who say that the main thing for the practice is the overwhelmingly favorable reaction of the people. People put down their books and look at you..... The more important issues are not the reading versus reciting on the part of the priest, bishop or deacon, but rather reading versus listening on the part of the congregation. Faith comes by hearing, not by reading, Scripture says.

A newsletter from the U.S. Bishops' Liturgy Committee states: Just as the Church is obliged to faithfully proclaim the Bible as it has been passed on, the reader is obliged to faithfully proclaim the biblical text exactly as it appears in the Lectionary Mass.

Catholic Questions, Wise Answers, by Michael J. Daley

**Question:** This week's question, **"Is Baptism a license to sin?"** What do you think? See next week's bulletin for the answer.

## NET Retreat

March 15

9 am to 5 PM

6-12 grade

Mass at 4 PM

Lunch and snack included

St. Mary Catholic Church  
160 N. Spring St. Bluffton

\$25 for non parishioners

Call 419-358-8631  
or scan the QR



*God wants to form a relationship with us. Like any relationship, our relationship with God is fostered through regularly spending time with Him and speaking to Him. Prayer is the foundation of our relationship with God; through prayer, God will lead us to live the abundant life He has planned for us.*

Dear young people, like the first disciples, follow Jesus. Do not be afraid to draw near to him, to speak with him as you talk with a friend.

Saint Pope John Paul II

## CURSILLO WEEKEND

Looking to deepen your faith?

Have you experienced a *Cursillo* weekend? It's a great way to accomplish that goal.



Sacraments



Prayers



Talks



Music



Food



Fellowship

Men's Weekend - Thursday evening, March 6 through Sunday afternoon, March 9, 2025

Women's Weekend - Thursday evening, April 10 through Sunday afternoon, April 13, 2025

Weekends will be held at Franciscan Spirituality Center, Tiffin, Ohio

Combined gathering on Saturday, May 10th, St. Michael Catholic Church, Findlay, Ohio 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**Pre-registration  
Required**

For information go to [cursillo419.org](http://cursillo419.org) and click on events or contact Father John Murray, C.Ss.R. at St. Mary Catholic Church, Bluffton, Ohio or Brother Daniel Hall, C.Ss.R. at St. Gerard Catholic Church, Lima, Ohio



## REDEMPTORIST CORNER

*Missionaries of Hope in the Footsteps of the Redeemer*

### DAILY & WEEKLY REFLECTIONS FROM THE REDEMPTORISTS

- Daily Audio Podcasts in either Spanish or English on the readings of the day may be found at [redemptorists.net](http://redemptorists.net) or on Facebook at: [facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore](https://facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore)
- Weekly Video reflections on the upcoming Sunday readings (Cycle A) may be found on Facebook: [facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore](https://facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore) or You Tube: [youtube.com/BaltRedemptorists](https://youtube.com/BaltRedemptorists).

### INTERESTED IN BECOMING A REDEMPTORIST?

*If you think you may have a Vocation to be Redemptorist Priest or Brother, please contact Fr. John or Fr. Denis Sweeney, C.Ss.R. or Fr. Peter Linh, C.Ss.R., our Redemptorist Vocation Directors.*

### THE REDEMPTORISTS



VOCATION OFFICE  
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## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Wednesdays  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Dedicated Prayer for Increase  
in Vocations to the Priesthood &  
Religious Life

*Eucharistic Adoration  
Divine Mercy Prayers  
Confessions  
Benediction*

## PRAY & FAST

*for an increase in vocations to the priesthood*

One Hail  
Mary  
*every day*

Fasting or  
Abstinence  
*every friday*



### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

*Send forth Your Spirit, Lord, into the hearts of your faithful people, that we may be conscious of our vocation to holiness and service to others. Grant that many of us may dedicate ourselves to You through the priesthood, religious life, and lay ministries.*

*We pray for the needs of our parish and diocese. Grant that we may always have sufficient good and holy priests and deacons, dedicated sisters and brothers, and committed lay ministers to serve our communities.*

*We pray too for the Redemptorists, that generous men may join them to become zealous missionaries, preaching the Gospel in word and action to the most abandoned, especially the poor.*

*We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.*

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