

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 7, 2016



Dear parishioners,

As Lent begins this year, we may want to focus our intentions on living in the spirit of the Year of Mercy. "Be merciful, just as your

Father is merciful."

We might first want to reflect on the ways in which the Father has indeed been merciful to us personally and to God's people. It is deeply amazing to me that God continues to trust us and does not take back the trust given to us to steward the earth and build the kingdom. How often is that trust even in my mind?!

How often has God forgiven me my intentional or my mindless hurting of others? How often has he forgiven my complacency about all the suffering in the world? The list could go on.

How many good gifts has God bestowed upon me? Do I take for granted easily available clean water, abundant food, secure shelter, the support of family and friends, health, faith.... Again the list could go on and on.

So the challenge of the Year of Mercy is to be merciful as God is merciful—to be forgiving and generous even to those who do not deserve it—as we do not deserve it.

That will be quite a challenge for the season! Ask for grace. Have a truly blessed and growing Lent!

Sister Carol

There is an opportunity to travel to Italy with me, Sister Carol, October 3-13, 2016. I would love to have you share the experience! Fliers are on the shelf in the main entrance. If you have questions, you can ask those who went in 2011—Roy and Cathy Hermiller, Hank and Carol Schroeder, Dave and Marilyn Kihm, Brian and Julia Miller—or me.

Weekend Masses

Sat Feb 6	4:00 p.m.	Cassie Kiene Sr. Rosario O'Connell
Sun Feb 7	10:00 a.m.	Lee Garmatter Sr. Rosario O'Connell
Sat Feb 13	4:00 p.m.	Jim Alt, Tim Kahle and Ralph Wischmeyer
Sun Feb 14	10:00 a.m.	Janet Maenle

Communion Services

Tue Feb 9	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Feb 12	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,820.00	Loose	\$340.00
Children	\$ 24.57	Total	\$3,184.57

80 envelopes returned = 38%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for February 13 & 14, 2016

Money Counters: Tonya Meyer and Deb Buck

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Peg Murphy

Cantor: Jenny Roby

Ushers: Dave and Joel Siefker

Lector: Jason Swartzlander

E.M.: Jessica Wischmeyer, Jeanne Parinello, and
Jack Marcum

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 and Serena Maag

Lectors: Brian Miller and Matt Ellerbrock

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

Servers: Kaden Renecker, Julia Mehaffie,
Jonathan Schriener

Readings for February 14, 2016

First Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

2nd Reading: Romans 10:8-13

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:1-13

Tom and Jan Schulte will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, February 14, 2016. They would like to invite all the parish family to their Open House Celebration next Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Hope to see all of you there.

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Lenten opportunities

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 10. There will be a Communion service with distribution of ashes at noon and Mass with distribution of ashes at 7:00 o'clock in the evening.

Every Wednesday during Lent we will have Stations of the Cross at 6:30 and Mass at 7:00. Every Thursday from 8:00-9:00 there will be opportunity for Adoration.

This Lent there will be no Penance service. There will be instead additional opportunities for private confession: before each Mass on Saturdays and Sundays, on Wednesdays, March 2 and March 16 from 5:00 to 6:30 (7:00) and after Mass until all who wish have received the sacrament.

As you know, there are two days of fasting for those between 18 and 59—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. These two days and all the Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence (no meat) for those ages 14 through 59.

Lenten Small Groups--There's still time! Sign-up sheets are out in the main entrance.

Rite of Sending and Rite of Election Next Sunday, February 14, we will be celebrating the Rite of Sending with Tori Halcomb. This means the parish approves her request to become a member of the Catholic Church and we send her to a ceremony with the bishop where he will declare her among the "Elect" to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. Congratulations for coming to this point in your journey, Tori!

In this Year of Mercy you have generously donated \$628.00 to the Bluffton food pantry from the extra collection last weekend.

Thank you to Shar Dunlap for coordinating all the work related to forming, training, and supplying the small groups for Lent.

Sign-up sheets for the Partners in Prayer prayer chain are on the cabinet. If you would like to join our group to pray for the needs of others, please provide your name and email address or phone number. Anyone who would like us to pray for them, please contact Rosemary Meyer at 358-0631, Pat Lugibihl at 358-0665 or Kathy Sehlhorst at cksehlhorst@gmail.com.



New app for Year of Mercy

Our Sunday Visitor's "365 Days to Mercy" app, free in the iTunes and Google Play app stores, is designed to accompany you on a spiritual journey during the Jubilee Year of mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis. The official Year of Mercy is December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016, but daily inspiration, stories, and news began appearing in the app on November 20, 2015, giving you a full 365 Days to Mercy. The theme for the year is "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful," reflected in the elements of the app. If you are not an iPhone user, you can get a daily Year of Mercy message from Loyola Press. Go to yearinourchurch@loyolapress.com and sign up to receive a Year of Mercy message every day by e-mail.



Beat the winter Blues!
Join us for an evening of Fun and Fellowship.

Adult Turn-up Euchre Tournament
Saturday, February 20th
6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
St. Mary's Bluffton, Social Hall

\$5 per person entry fee. Sandwiches provided. Please bring snack to share. BYOB! Round-Robin play – rotating partners. Singles & couples welcome. Prizes to be awarded to top 3. Please sign up on counter in main entrance.

P.R.E.P

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

K-6: Next class is on Wed., February 10th from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. Mass with distribution of ashes is at 7:00 p.m.

Jr. Hi & God Squad Class is today, Sunday, February 7th from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m.