

St. Mary's Catholic Church

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 15, 2017

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th

Dear parishioners,

Today we return to Ordinary Time—the time when big feasts do not set the pace; we just count the weeks. The Christmas season is officially over. The decorations have been taken down and put away. Things are settling.

The Church is very wise in having the liturgical season undulated from highs to lows. It's how life is. We can't live on a constant high. It's not good for us. We need time to be quiet and to reflect. And reflect we should. The Incarnation is not a mystery that we can absorb in just a few weeks.

Our Eucharistic Day is a continuing reflection on the Incarnation. Jesus came to be one of us. At the Last Supper he told us "I have greatly desired to eat this Passover Supper with you." He wanted to remain with us and still desires to be with us. He gave us the Eucharist as an assurance that he is truly with us. We can know it with our eyes. In gratitude we spend some special time with him today.

The readings for the day tell us of three men who took very seriously God's presence in their lives: Isaiah, Paul, and John the Baptist. Each of them knew that he had been called by God to do something special. Each of them received confirmation of his mission. Each of them went about his work with great love, zeal, and faithfulness—even when it cost two of them their lives.

We too are called. We too have been confirmed in our vocation. Do we have the same love, zeal, and faithfulness in serving the Lord Jesus?

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

Sat. Jan 14	4:00 p.m.	Jim Alt
Sun Jan 15	10:00 a.m.	Janet Maenle
Sat Jan 21	4:00 p.m.	Ike Businger
Sun Jan 22	10:00 a.m.	Mother Angelica

Communion Services

Tue Jan 17	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Jan 20	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,390.55	Loose	\$715.38
Children	\$42.15	Total	\$4,148.08
82 envelopes returned = 39%			

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for January 21 & 22, 2017

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

Greeter: Jeanne Parinello
Cantor: Dave Roby
Ushers: Chuck Niese and John Parinello
Lector: Jim Kinn
E.M.: Diana Bucher and Jennifer Tschuor
Servers: Brayton and Addison Businger

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Basil Meyer
Greeter-West Door: Deb Buck
Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink
Ushers: Jerry and Jeanne Wehri
Lectors: Lisa Welch and Jan Schulte
E.M.: Michelle Risner, Betty Gerten, Tom Schulte, and Linda Kinn
Servers: Allison Kettels, Julia Mehaffie and Makayla Schweingruber

Readings for January 22, 2017

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 8:23-9:3
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-23

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St. Mary's Catholic Church - Bluffton, OH

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Our Annual Eucharistic Adoration

Today, Sunday, January 15, is our annual Eucharistic Adoration. Every parish is asked each year to take some special time to gratefully acknowledge Jesus' gift of his presence in the Blessed Sacrament. We will share lunch immediately after Mass. At 11:30 we will move to church for an hour of adoration. .



Don't forget!! Sign up!!



Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Supper will take place next Sunday, January 22, at 6 p.m., in the social hall. Join in the celebration and sign-up on the shelf in the main entrance, call the office 419-358-8631, or text Sister Carol 419-890-8090. Please do this by Wednesday, January 18.

What Makes Catholics Catholic?

The catechists will be gathering for an evening of in-service Wednesday, January 25. However, everyone is invited. We will begin with a simple supper at 6:30 and then begin the presentation at 7:00. There will be no PREP classes with the children that evening. Catechists are, of course, expected. Please sign-up (as in the paragraph above) by Sunday, January 22, so we know how much food to prepare.



Bluffton Presbyterian Church is hosting a **Chili Cook-Off** on Wednesday, February 22, from 5:30-7:00 to raise money for the food pantry. Area churches are invited to



- Provide their favorite chili
- Sell other options: sandwiches, salads, chips, desserts
- Share your talent by performing at the event.

Please call the office ASAP to participate or coordinate.

Important notice

This is the year when Eucharistic Ministers need to be commissioned/recommissioned. This means each of them is required to do some formation. We will offer this formation on Sunday, March 12, at 11:30 a.m.—after Mass and lunch. Sister Edna Michel will be the presenter. The title of her presentation is “The Body of Christ.” Mark your calendars now.



The eight days from January 18 through January 25 are annually set aside as a time of special prayer for Christian Unity.

To prepare for that week of prayer, Pastor Kevin Mohr, pastor of English Luther Church, will preach here at St. Mary's at the 10 'clock Mass on Sunday, January 22. Sister Carol will be preaching at First Mennonite Church. This pulpit exchange is a Bluffton tradition and is practiced among many churches around the United States.

Lent is fast approaching and begins on March 1, 2017. Our parish will again participate in the “Living the Eucharist” program as an opportunity for spiritual renewal during Lent. These sessions take place weekly in a small group format in the leader's homes. We are having sign up for these small groups January 21, 22, 27 and 28. This will allow leaders to have the appropriate number of “Participant Booklets.” We are asking that you contribute \$5 to cover the cost of the book. For some families small group gatherings are not a good option. Families can participate by using the “Family Activity Booklet” that will be available if you choose this format. There is an additional signup sheet for these books so we can have them ready for you. Please consider joining a group or utilizing the “Family Activity Booklet” during the Lenten season to realize ways to encounter Christ more deeply in the sacrament of the Eucharist.

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word –
Sunday, January 22, 10 a.m.

K-6: There is NO class Wednesday, January 25th.
The catechists have in-service at 6:30 p.m.

Jr. High: Next class is Sunday, February 5, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

God Squad: Next class is Sunday, February 5, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.