

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 12, 2017



Dear parishioners,

We are in the midst of National Marriage Week, February 7 – 14. The theme this year is “Let’s Strengthen Marriage.”

I have four ideas I’d like to share that touch my heart about marriage. The first is really what Father Howe has told you many times. In marriage our first job is to help each other get to heaven. For me that means to help each other become the person God wants us to be.

When we say the wedding vows, we “promise to be true to you, to love you and honor you all the days of my life.” Yes, it does mean staying together through thick or thin. The emphasis, however, is not on sheer endurance. The emphasis is on being true, on loving and honoring each other. It hurts my heart when I hear someone put down or ridicule his/her spouse—especially in public.

Marriage is a partnership of life and love. You are in it together. (I try to do that with 87 other women. I dare you.) That is a challenging and never-ending job. We need to speak our truth and do our part without dominating or minimizing the other.

Lastly, marriage is a witness to the world of God’s love for God’s people. So the really big challenge of marriage is that you are not in it for yourselves. It is a vocation, a call from God. So the challenge is to show to your spouse and to your children the same acceptance, support, and forgiveness that God shows us. Big job! Let’s strengthen marriage.

Sister Carol

The parish extends its sympathy to Dan Staley, Bridgette, Jared, and Nathan at the death of their wife and mother Rhonda Staley. May she be in peace.

Congratulations to Abby Bryer and Luke Probst who were married here on Saturday. We wish you many happy years together.

Weekend Masses

| | | |
|-------------|------------|----------------------|
| Sat Feb 11 | 4:00 p.m. | Ed Murphy |
| Sun Feb 12 | 10:00 a.m. | Janet Maenle |
| Sat. Feb 18 | 4:00 p.m. | Jim Alt |
| Sun Feb 19 | 10:00 a.m. | Eldon (Ike) Businger |

Communion Services

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|------------|------------|------------|
| Tue Feb 14 | 10:30 a.m. | Richland |
| Fri Feb 17 | 8:00 a.m. | St. Mary’s |

SUNDAY COLLECTION

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|----------|------------|-------|------------|
| Adults | \$3,523.00 | Loose | \$773.00 |
| Children | \$42.91 | Total | \$4,338.91 |

88 envelopes returned = 42%

Local Food Pantry collection was \$601.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for February 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
Lector: Jim Kinn
E.M.: Diana Bucher and Jennifer Tschuor
Servers: Brayton and Addison Businger

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Kelly Yarnell
Greeter-West Door: Steve 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 February 19, 2017 Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:38-48

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St. Mary's Catholic Church - Bluffton, OH

Reconciliation

Wednesday evening, February 15, from 6:30 until 7:30, the PREP student's grades 2 through 6 will have an opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. Both Father Gorman and Father Howe will be here. Father Stites will be away. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate the sacrament.



Super Marriage Sunday

Next weekend, February 18 and 19, Father Harry Brown will be here to preside at our Masses and to speak about "The Good marriage becoming a GREAT marriage." After each Mass Father Harry will be available at the podium to give a brief info session on Marriage Encounter for couples interested in more details.



Marriage Encounter is for any married couple who desires a richer and fuller life together. No marriage can be too good. The encounter weekend teaches a communication technique which permits each couple to explore important areas of their relationship in a spirit of love and understanding. It's a private weekend, a time for you and your spouse to be alone together, to focus on each other. Every marriage deserves such focus and attention. Add "sparkle" to your marriage! Give your marriage a good "wash and wax job" or a super "tune up."

Living the Eucharist Small group leaders are reminded to pick up your supplies for your Lenten small group. Those who have chosen to participate in the family program can also pick up their materials.

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



On Saturday, March 11, Catholic Charities is hosting a Diocesan Jail & Prison Ministry Gathering at St. Michael the Archangel Activity Center, 750 Bright Road, Findlay, OH. This event is open to anyone currently involved with or interested in volunteering for this Catholic Charities ministry. Topics to be discussed include: the mission/vision of the Jail & Prison Ministry in the Diocese of Toledo, the Catholic Social Teaching context, Evangelization training, updates from Northwest and West Central Ohio ministry facilities, best practices, and volunteer recruitment of priests, deacons, religious and laity. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The event runs from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The cost is \$15 and includes morning refreshments and lunch. Please RSVP with check/cash no later than Friday, Feb. 24, to: Nick Lyster, Catholic Charities Justice Ministry Coordinator, 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, OH 43604

The Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, Carey, OH, is hosting a mission, "**60 Minutes for Jesus**" with Father Jim Sichko. Father Jim will be using real-life experiences and relating them to the gospel message of Jesus Christ with scripture, storytelling, laughter and praise. Father Jim is a truly gifted preacher and evangelist from the Diocese of Lexington, KY, and in February 2016, Pope Francis commissioned Father Jim as one of his Papal Missionaries of Mercy. The Basilica was blessed last August when he preached our Assumption Novena, and we enthusiastically invite Father Jim back to be the homilist at all of our Masses the weekend of February 25th (5:30pm) and February 26th (9:00am and 11:00am). We will continue our mission on Sunday, February 26; Monday, February 27; and Tuesday, February 28, all beginning 7:00pm in the Basilica. All are invited to join in the mission.

P.R.E.P

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

K-6: Class is Wednesday, February 15th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Also there is Reconciliation for grades 2-6.

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

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