

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 19, 2017

*Be the best version of
yourself! Be holy!*

Dear parishioners,

Our confirmation candidates had a class on being the best version of yourself. Some of them were very impressed by this lesson. I believe that this theme is also the theme of today's readings.

In the first reading we are reminded not to waste our time on hatred, revenge, and grudges. Focus on being holy. Listen to the Lord because God is God. How can we presume to have a better way than God's way?

In the second reading St. Paul reminds us to keep our priorities straight. We can't be boastful about what we have or who we are or what we do. We would have, do, and be nothing without God. Even though we live under the assumption that we are self-made people, everything truly does belong to God. We have them on loan out of the gracious goodness of our God.

In the gospel we are invited to a high standard. When God first began to train the Chosen people, the rules were about fairness—an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Don't get carried away with vengeance. Rather, Jesus says, be generous and forgiving. Do more than is expected out of justice. Always choose the higher ground.

Be the best version of yourself.

Sister Carol



**Begin to make your plan for prayer, fasting,
and almsgiving for Lent. It's only ten days
away!**

Weekend Masses

Sat Feb 18	4:00 p.m.	Jim Alt
Sun Feb 19	10:00 a.m.	Eldon (Ike) Businger
Sat. Feb 25	4:00 p.m.	Cassie Kiene
Sun Feb 26	10:00 a.m.	Chris Sterrett

Communion Services

Tue Feb 21	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Feb 24	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,518.00	Loose	\$807.00
Children	\$50.61	Total	\$3,375.61

76 envelopes returned = 37%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for February 25 & 26, 2017

Money Counters: Angie Wenger and Deb Goldenetz
4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Basil Meyer

Cantor: Choir

Ushers: Hank and Carol Schroeder

Lector: Jenny Roby

E.M.: Wes Lovett, Basil and Rosemary Meyer,
Diana Bucher

Servers: Derek Swartzlander, Drew Lovett,
Abygail Kettels and Kendal Giesige

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Basil Meyer

Greeter-West Door: Deb Buck

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink

Ushers: Jeanne and Jerry Wehri

Lectors: Lisa Welch and Jan Schulte

E.M.: Michelle Risner, Betty Gerten,
Tom Schulte, Linda Kinn

Servers: Alyson Kettels, Julia Mehaffie, and
Makayla Schweingruber

Readings for February 26, 2017

Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 49:14-15

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:24-34

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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."

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



Parents of the First Communion class, please remember that Father John will be celebrating a teaching Mass with you on Wednesday, February 22. Please come directly to church when you arrive at 6:30.

Everyone is invited to join in our parish celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, Saturday, February 25, at the 4:00 o'clock Mass. Msgr. Bill Kubacki will be here as the delegate of Bishop Thomas to confer the sacrament. A simple reception will follow.



Follow us on Facebook:
St. Mary's Catholic Church - Bluffton, OH

Heartbeat of Lima is now offering H.E.A.R.T. - Healing the Effects of Abortion Related Trauma. This is a seven week class led by two post-abortive volunteers, Sue Hanf and Liz White. Class will start Tuesday, February 21 at 7 p.m. If you are interested in the class, please call our office at 419-222-7945 so that we can order materials and schedule you for a class.

7th ANNUAL ECUMENCIAL CHOIR FOR GOOD FRIDAY The Good Friday Ecumenical Choir, *Adoramus*, is looking for members to sing a musical reflection on Good Friday, April 14, at 12:00 noon, in the Basilica of Our Lady of Consolation. Rehearsals will be held in the choir loft of the Basilica on Sunday afternoons, beginning on Sunday, March 5 at 1:00 p.m. Contact the Basilica's music director, Mr. Jack Gerding, music@olcshrine.com or 419-396-7107, if you have any questions and to reserve a musical score. Singers high school age and up are welcome to join.

Heartbeat of Lima's 5th Annual Chicken BBQ and Fundraising Auction will be bigger and better than ever! We have over 50 wonderful baskets for you to bid on! Come and spend the afternoon and have a delicious chicken dinner with your family and friends and take home a great auction item! The BBQ will take place on Sunday, March 19, 2017 from Noon to 3 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus hall, 810 S. Cable Road in Lima. The Silent Auction will start at Noon. Winners will be announced at 2 p.m. All chicken dinners are pre-order for \$8 each. You get ½ BBQ chicken, southwestern corn, fresh fruit cup, dinner roll/butter, and a cookie. Dine-in or carry-out dinners will be available. Orders for the dinners must be placed by March 9, 2017. For more information contact: Heartbeat of Lima at 419-222-7945.

Bluffton University's Masterworks performance is to be held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26 in Yoder Recital Hall. The concert will feature "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi. A free-will offering will be taken to help cover expenses.

P.R.E.P

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

K-6: Class is Wednesday, February 22nd from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Also there is Parents' 1st Communion Meeting with Fr. John Stites celebrating a teaching Mass.

Jr. High & God Squad: Class is today, Sunday, February 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.