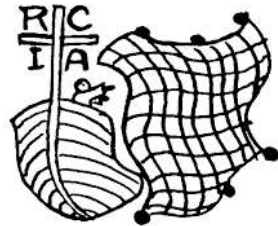


St. Mary's Catholic Church

First Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2017



Dear parishioners,

On this Sunday I always remember how much I take for granted. I think there is a tendency in us to think that "I am a self-made man/woman." We forget that God guides our life—and God does that best when we allow it.

Today we send Mark and Robert to the Rite of Election. This is an acknowledgement of the fact that out of all the people God might have chosen, God chose them this year. I am sure that both Mark and Robert could recount for you the events (not of their own making) in their lives that have led them to membership in the Catholic Church. They are responding to God's invitation to follow where God leads.

At Findlay this afternoon Bishop Thomas will name them as "the Elect." They have been chosen/elected by God, and we humbly acknowledge that this is God's doing.

This morning we do/did our part by sending them to the bishop. Their sponsors, the RCIA team, and all of you lend them your support in their commitment to follow the Lord Jesus.

Please continue to pray for them. They count on our encouragement and support.

Sister Carol



Remember to sign up to come to the Parish Mini-Retreat next Sunday, March 12. We will begin with lunch. The presentation will be immediately after lunch.

Weekend Masses

Sat Mar 4	4:00 p.m.	Bill Shackelford Sr.
Sun Mar 5	10:00 a.m.	For the parish
Sat. Mar 11	4:00 p.m.	Jim Badertscher
Sun Mar 12	10:00 a.m.	Dorothy Sterrett

Communion Services

Tue Mar 7	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Mar 10	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$4,175.00	Loose	\$637.50
Children	\$18.54	Total	\$4,831.04

72 envelopes returned = 35%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for March 11 & 12, 2017

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

Greeter: Jan and Diana Emmert

Cantor: Jenny Roby

Ushers: Dave and Shirley Siefker

Lectors: Jason Swartzlander

E.M.: Jerry Wehri, Jeanne Parinello,
Amanda Woolley

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 Maag and Nick Marcum

Lectors: Brian Miller and Matt Ellerbrock

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

Servers: Kaden Reneker, Josh and Nathan Meyer

Readings for March 12, 2017

Second Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

St. Mary's Catholic Church

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Thank you

The last three priests who have been here to celebrate with us have commented how clean our church is. Even the hymnbooks are in order! **Thank you** to Louise Rieman for her consistent work to make us look good!



If you picked up a registration form for Marriage Encounter, remember to send it in soon. If you are interested in participating but did not get a registration form last weekend, there are some

available in both entrances.

The Pastoral Council will meet on Tuesday evening, March 7, at 7:00 o'clock.

Lenten schedule:

Wednesday, March 8

6:30 – Stations of the Cross led by the 2nd grade

7:00 – Mass

If you are moved to help the food pantry for your Lenten almsgiving, here are the things they need.

For March the following items would be helpful:

Cereals

Chunky soups

Campbell's soups – chicken noodle (Tomato not needed at this time.)

Crackers

Chili beans, chili sauce, tomato sauce

Canned fruits

Baked beans

Canned vegetables (NO green beans, please)

Spaghettios

Macaroni and cheese

Peanut butter

Apple sauce

Manwich or similar product

Canned meats – beef, chicken, pork

Tuna

Tuna helper

Hamburger helper

Pasta helper

Tacos, taco sauce, tortillas

Cake mixes, cookie mixes, brownie mixes

Catsup, mustard, dill pickles

Paper products – TP, paper towels, tissues

Lotions, creams, deodorants

Follow us on Facebook:

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Bluffton, OH

2017 Century Farm Award Applications Available

Catholic Charities is now accepting applications for Century Farm Awards. This award designation honors Catholic families who have maintained a farm or homestead within their family for at least 100 years, with an emphasis on well-preserved working farms.

Applicants will be asked to submit a registration form, copies of old deeds, and pictures to support claims. The information submitted must show family residence and ownership of a farm for at least 100 years. Applications should be submitted no later than May 31, 2017.

A Mass honoring award recipients will be celebrated by Bishop Daniel E. Thomas at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Norwalk, Ohio, at 10 a.m., Wednesday, September 20, 2017.

For more information or request the registration form, please contact Sharon Giles at (419) 214-4898 or sgiles@toledodiocese.org.

Catholic Charities is hosting the ecumenical **40 Days for Life campaign** in Northwest Ohio from March 1 through April 9, 2017. You can participate in three ways: prayer and fasting, community outreach and peaceful vigil. We invite you to pray for an hour in front of Capital Care Network, the Toledo abortion clinic, located at 1160 W. Sylvania Avenue. Sign up at: www.40daysforlife.com/toledo. You may not be able to go to Toledo to pray in front of the abortion clinic; however, we can still pray wherever we are.

To learn more, email Peter Range at prange@toledodiocese.org. Join the movement, and help us end abortion in Northwest Ohio!

P.R.E.P

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

K-6: Class is Wednesday, March 8th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Jr. High & God Squad: Class is today, Sunday, March 5th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.