

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Third Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2017



Dear parishioners,

I read an article in "Woman's Day" this week that told the story of a woman who had ALS, decided she didn't want to deal with the struggle, moved to Oregon (the first state to "legalize" euthanasia), gathered her family and her favorite things, and took the death-dealing drugs. The article was surrounded with pretty flowers and happy pictures. It promoted and glorified her choice! I found it very, very upsetting.

There was a little box that gave the religious belief—even citing the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops—that we do not have the right to take any life, including our own.

Today we hear the story of the Samaritan woman to whom Jesus revealed everything she had ever done. It makes me wonder how many times we as a nation need someone to show us what we are doing. We look to popular opinion or customer satisfaction or our own preferences to make our choices. We promote comfort and convenience. Have you noticed how much of our media is about opinion polls—as if they matter? Do we really choose what God is asking of us? Do we honor and reverence God's gift of life to us and to all our brothers and sisters?

We are surrounded by death-dealing choices. The Holy Father has called ours a "culture of death." Over time we have become numb to abortion, capital punishment, neglect of the poor, deportation of refugees fleeing violence. Will euthanasia be next? Let's ask Jesus to show us clearly the path we are traveling.

Sister Carol

Please pray for Andrew Bandish, the father of Cindy Bandish, who died two weeks ago. May he rest in peace.

Weekend Masses

Sat Mar 18	4:00 p.m.	Eldon (Ike) Businger Joan Higbea
Sun Mar 19	10:00 a.m.	Janet Maenle
Sat. Mar 25	4:00 p.m.	Ellen Von Lehmden
Sun Mar 26	10:00 a.m.	Rhonda Staley

Communion Services

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

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,154.00	Loose	\$800.37
Children	\$36.30	Total	\$3,990.67

78 envelopes returned = 38%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for March 25 & 26, 2017

Money Counters: Deb Goldenetz and Barb Galvan
4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Basil Meyer

Cantor: Dave Roby

Ushers: Hank and Carol Schroeder

Lectors: Jenny Roby

E.M.: Bob Minto and Edna Conkling

Servers: Abygail Kettels and Kendal Giesige

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Deb Buck

Greeter-West Door: Basil Meyer

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink

Ushers: Jeanne and Jerry Wehri

Lectors: Lisa Welch and Jan Schulte

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

Servers: Alyson Kettels, Julia Mehaffie, and
Makayla Schweingruber

Readings for March 26, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

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Lenten schedule:

Wednesday, March 22

5:30-6:45 - Confessions

6:30 – Stations of the Cross

7:00 – Mass



Scrutinies For the next three Sundays we will be celebrating the Scrutinies with our Elect, Robert and Mark. These are invitations and prayers for them that they might uncover in themselves

whatever keeps them still from whole-hearted and complete commitment to Jesus. It is a time for us to also pray for ourselves that we too might find Lent a time of purification and enlightenment, that we too might see what holds us back from true and zealous commitment.



The Catholic Church's arm of outreach to all parts of the world is Catholic Relief Services (CRS). It is consistently present in about 100 countries around the world. Its present pressing concerns are the severe drought in the Sudan and the desperate situation of refugees in Syria. They are often "first responders" when disaster strikes. Next weekend is the annual collection for CRS. Please be generous! The children also have CRS Rice Bowls for Lent. Help them to be generous also.

Follow us on Facebook:

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Bluffton, OH

The Holy Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice will be held on Saturday, April 8th at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady, Queen Of The Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, 2535 Collingwood Blvd., Toledo, Ohio.

The Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice is a response to a call to exercise a merciful accompaniment to all immigrants in our diocese in these difficult times. United as one Body of Christ, this Mass is also a proactive way to be mindful of what our Church and the magisterium expect from all of us, in solidarity and mercy. After Mass, we will have a brief presentation by experts in immigration and Catholic Social teaching to explain some of the principles of the USCCB Justice for Immigrants campaign.

Thank you again to Cathy and Roy Hermiller and Betsy Schwab for preparing the meal for the parish retreat. **Thank you** to Wes, Nick, and Ben Lovett and Greg Conkling for setting up.

Basil and Rosemary Meyer have a wonderful video that shows the daily life of a monk at Gethsemani. Brother Mathias is in the video. We will show this video on Sunday, March 26 after Mass in the new classrooms.

SAVE THE DATE: The Light is On

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 5, 2017 when the confessional lights will be on in parishes across the Diocese of Toledo for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Between the hours of 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM on April 5th priests in local parishes will be available to hear confessions. This Lenten yearly practice is a means to encourage the Catholic faithful to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Light is On is a collective diocesan wide effort when confessions are scheduled at the same time, on the same day in all our parishes. Scheduled times and locations may be altered slightly due to local circumstances. Consult the parish bulletin.

P.R.E.P

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

K-6: Class is Wednesday, March 22nd from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mass is at 7:00 p.m. (for Kindergarten, 4th and 5th grade students).

Jr. High: Class is today, Sunday, March 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

God Squad: Class is today, Sunday, March 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Start filling those Rice Bowls. Lenten Rice bowls are due by Wednesday, April 12, 2017.

Attention parents: There is a correction on the PREP calendar for Masses during Lent. March 22nd we will have Mass for Kindergarten, 4th and 5th grade students. On April 5th, we will have Mass for grades 1 & 6.