

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 26, 2017



Dear parishioners,

Because we have been blessed over the past years to have Elect preparing for baptism, we have heard this gospel every year. It never grows old.

The man has been born blind. He has never seen the light of day. Like so many of us, the disciples want to know: What did this guy do? What did his parents do to deserve this? Jesus doesn't explain it. It's nobody's fault. Bad things just happen. It's part of the human condition. God, however, can use it for good.

You will notice in the story that the man born blind believes that Jesus can and did cure him. He is the one who can see. The religious leaders who are so intent upon trapping Jesus and following their own agenda are the ones who are blind. They refuse to open their eyes and their hearts to the absolutely obvious. "He was blind, but now he sees." The religious leaders ask and ask again to see if there isn't someone who will corroborate their story.

Today in the Scrutiny we again ask that we might be shown what it is that still keeps us from following Jesus in the way that truly serves God.

If we ask Jesus today to help us to see, we need to be open to actually seeing. Sometimes we don't like what we have to see.

Sister Carol

Thank you to Basil and Rosemary Meyer for loaning us the DVD "One Day." And **thank you** to Brother Matthias (Matt) for setting for us the example of courage to follow where God leads.

Weekend Masses

Sat Mar 25	4:00 p.m.	Ellen Von Lehmden
Sun Mar 26	10:00 a.m.	Rhonda Staley
Sat. Apr 1	4:00 p.m.	Aaron Schwarz
Sun Apr 2	10:00 a.m.	For the parish

Communion Services

Tue Mar 28	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri Mar 31	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,159.69	Loose	\$715.00
Children	\$47.65	Total	\$2,922.34

77 envelopes returned = 37%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for April 1 & 2, 2017

Money Counters: Chad Wolford and Angie Wenger
4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Peg Murphy

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink

Ushers: Dave and Mary Hoffer

Lectors: Caitlyn Couch

E.M.: Jessica Wischmeyer, Brianna Atkins, and Basil Meyer

Servers: Zane and Grace Myers

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Logan Welch

Greeter-West Door: Lisa Welch

Cantor: Karen Phillips

Ushers: Trent/Todd and Colin Phillips

Lectors: Mel Heitmeyer, Shannon Wannemacher

E.M.: Wes Lovett, Lisa Welch, Logan Welch, Megan Dulle and Mackenzie Butler

Servers: Drew and Ken Lovett, Jonathan Hoorman

Readings for April 2, 2017

Fifth Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

Please remember to sign up to help with the liturgical roles for the days of Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Sign-up sheets are on the shelf in the narthex.



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Lenten schedule:

Wednesday, March 29
6:00-6:45 - Confessions
6:30 – Stations of the Cross
7:00 – Mass



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. This 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.

Ten years ago on this weekend (March 25, 2007) we blessed the new addition! 2017 is also the fiftieth anniversary of building our present church. We have great cause to be thankful for these and for the many other abundant blessings that God has given to St. Mary's Parish.



Don't forget! Right after the 10 o'clock Mass today, Sunday, March 26, we will show the video on one day in the life of a monk at the Abbey of Gethsemane.

There are some new books in the church library that may interest you:

Take Back Your Kids: Confident Parenting in Turbulent Times by William J. Doherty

Keep Your Kids Catholic: Sharing Your Faith and Making It Stick by Marc Cardaronella

Be DADitudes: 8 Ways to Be An Awesome Dad by Greg Popcak

Bake the World A Better Place- BAKE SALE

We will be hosting a bake sale for Parish Charity on April 8th & 9th, here at the church. If you are willing to donate baked good items for that weekend, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or feel free to contact Carol Schroeder- 419-996-9570 or Courtney Gerten- 419-957-8392.



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. Father John will be available during that time at St. Mary's.



3rd Annual

Join us for an evening of Fun and Fellowship.

Adult Turn-up Euchre Tournament

Saturday, April 29th

6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Bluffton, Social Hall

\$5/person entry fee. Sandwiches provided. Please bring a snack to share. BYOB! Singles & Couples welcome. Round-Robin play – rotating partners. Prizes to be awarded to top 3. Please sign up on counter in main entrance.

P.R.E.P

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

K-6: Class is Wednesday, March 29th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mass is at 7:00 p.m.

Jr. High & God Squad: Next class is Sunday, April 2nd from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. God Squad may be moved to April 9th. Stay tuned.

3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 1st after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. All children are welcome!