

St. Mary's Catholic Church

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 26, 2018



Dear parishioners,

This week's gospel makes me sad. Jesus has given his mission everything he had. He wanted to show God's love for the people. Jesus has preached, cured the sick, drawn in the marginalized, multiplied the loaves and fishes.... Today he comes to the breaking point for some of his disciples. He tells them he is the Bread come down from heaven. Unless they eat his flesh and drink his blood they shall not have eternal life. Some of the disciples decide it's too much for them.

The first reading is about deciding also. Joshua tells the Israelites: Decide today whom you will serve.

The road of discipleship is a road of many decisions. Do I pray for deeper faith when my faith is tested or do I throw out faith with the questions. When the Church is being purified by such things as the sexual abuse scandals, do I decide to hold fast to my faith and to Jesus' church? When culture offers me attractive options not in line with Jesus' teaching or the Church's teachings—a site wedding instead of a church wedding, living together before marriage, spending more for a house or a car than I really need, throwing away vast amounts of materials because it's time saving or convenient, turning a blind eye to the needs of the poor, being too busy to pray or offer service. Decide today whom you will serve. Each decision is an opportunity to be a disciple.

Peter offers us the solution because he recognizes where real truth lies. Peter has followed Jesus long enough and knows him well enough to know that Jesus' promises are the ones that are worth holding on to. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe that you are the Holy One of God."

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

Sat Aug 25	4:00 p.m. Jim Badertscher Fr. Cleo Schmenk
Sun Aug 26	10:00 a.m. Carolyn Yeagle
Sat Sept 1	4:00 p.m. Orville "Fritz" Smith Jr. the Murphy and Immele families
Sun Sept 2	10:00 a.m. Jan Schulte

Communion Services

Fri Aug 31 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,575.00	Loose \$716.00
Children	\$61.50	Total \$3,352.50
68 envelopes returned = 32%		

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for September 1 & 2, 2018

Money Counters: Janet Begg and Angie Wenger

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Peg Murphy

Cantor: Kevin Vance

Ushers: Dave and Mary Hoffer

Lector: Deb Garlock

E.M.: Brianna Atkins, Basil Meyer, Lindsay Horn

Servers: Grace Myers, Calvin Freideger, and
Jacob Granger

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: John and Sarah Schulte family

Greeter-West Door:

Cantor: Karen Phillips

Ushers: Todd Phillips and John Schlumbohm

Lectors: Amy Tabler and Caitlyn Couch

E.M.: Wes Lovett, Lisa Welch, Logan Welch,
Cathy Hermiller, Becca Schlumbohm

Servers: Drew, Ken, and Nick Lovett

Readings for September 2, 2018

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

2nd Reading: James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

Gospel Reading: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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Parents of high school students, remember that every high school student needs to have a parent sign the permission form for electronic communication from the high school team. And please encourage your child/children to participate in the God Squad. Our Catholic commitment and growth does not end with Confirmation or with entrance into high school. This may be the most important time to learn what it means to be a practicing Catholic—one who knows his/her faith, is able to defend it, and knows how to live the Christian commitment to discipleship.



Coming events

Aug. 26 – Registration for PREP and God Squad

Sept. 2 – Welcome breakfast for Bluffton University students

Sept. 4 - Pastoral Council supper and meeting, 6:30 pm

Sept. 5 – Catechists' supper/meeting, 6:30 pm

Sept. 6 – Church Day at Bluffton University

Sept. 9 – Confirmation meeting 9:00 am
Confirmation commissioning at Mass
Coffee and donuts

Sept. 11 – Finance Council meeting, 7:00 pm

Sept. 12 – PREP begins

Sept. 16 – Children's Liturgy of the Word,
Confirmation classes, and
God Squad begin
Catechist commissioning at Mass

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Classes will be starting on Monday, September 10th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church please join us.

The Service Group from Mennonite Home) is sponsoring a silent auction and a bake sale as part of the Fall Festival in September.

St. Mary Catholic church really came through for MHCO for the bake sale at Easter. They were pleasantly surprised by all of our donations. So, the church can do this again by donating to the bake sale on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 21 and 22. Items need to be in the lobby by 9 a.m. Friday. Home baked goods to be sold include rolls, bread, cookies, brownies, cakes, pies, and noodles.

Baking not your thing. Maybe the silent auction is. See the bulletin board for ideas for items for the silent auction. Anyone wishing to donate to the auction can contact Jessica Strahm, Volunteer Coordinator, at 419-358-1015, ext. 248 or jstrahm@mhcoliving.org.

EPIC Our next Church history class is Thursday, August 30, at 7:30.

Update from Travis The first few days of orientation have been a whirlwind of meetings and tours, but there has also been much time of fellowship with some of the other students. I've really enjoyed getting to meet the other guys and hear some of their stories. While I'm still struggling desperately to keep up at our prayer times (Liturgy of the Hours), it is

my favorite thing so far to chant with the other men. In summary, I'm already exhausted, but very joyful and happy to be here!



The Sultan and the Saint

For those of you who wanted to see this PBS special—take heart! Thanks to Jim and Amy Tabler we now have a copy of the documentary. We will show the presentation at 7:30 p.m., this Monday, August 27, in the new classrooms. It is the story of the friendship that developed between St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan Al-Kamil of Egypt during the Crusades.



Day of Prayer Bishop Thomas has asked every parish to have September 14, the Feast of the Exultation of the



Cross, to be a day of prayer asking forgiveness, purification, and healing in light of the recently renewed sexual abuse scandal. At St. Mary we will have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from after the 8:00 Communion service in the morning until 1:00 o'clock. We will need to be sure that someone is present before the Blessed Sacrament that entire time. There will be a sign-up sheet on the shelf in the main entrance. The times will be in increments of 15 minutes. If you can stay longer, please put your name in as many spaces as you would like. Let's work together at being the whole Church praying together that day.

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word and PREP classes will be resuming soon. Kelly Honse will be in the narthex after Mass this Sunday, August 26th to answer any questions and pick up PREP, Confirmation and High School paperwork.