

St. Mary's Catholic Church

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 25, 2019

Dear Parishioners,

When Jesus walked thru towns and villages very often people would stop him and ask deep serious thought-provoking questions. Some questions prompted Jesus to present His most important teachings. That is the case in today's Gospel passage. Someone comes up to Jesus and asks: "How many people will be saved?" The questioner wanted Jesus to give a precise number. The person wanted a "ballpark figure." A hundred, a thousand, a million? Notice that Jesus doesn't give a precise number but rather he turns the focus from curiosity about the salvation of others to concern about one's own future. Even though Jesus did not say how many will or will not be saved, he does give some very important advice: "Strive to get through the narrow gate (the gate that leads to eternal life) and don't wait until the last minute to do so."

In reality the questioner had asked Jesus the wrong question. He should have asked Jesus: "How can I get saved?" To answer this question Jesus makes three points that are the key message of today's liturgy: salvation requires effort, one should seize the present moment, and no one should be smug about salvation (some "outsiders" will be accepted and some "insiders" will be turned away.)

Jesus reminds us on a daily basis that the gate that leads to eternal life is open to all of us but it is narrow. Rather than our trying to figure out how many others will fit through, we should make sure that **we will** fit through. It is always tempting to be more concerned and even outraged about others state of morality or life style that we pay little attention to the state of our life, heart, and soul.

Our Gospel message about the narrow gate carries some deep soul searching challenges for each one of us. We need to ask ourselves: Am I entering through the gate? Am I becoming fit for entry by my spiritual life? Am I using the opportunities and graces given to me in the Church or am I only multiplying the motions of my faith as a substitute for the very conversion that must truly take place? Am I merely listening to God's word or am I allowing God's word to take root in my heart, empowering me to follow and live out His word?

Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John



Weekend Masses

Sat Aug 24 4:00 p.m. In thanksgiving
Sun Aug 25 10:00 a.m. Special Intention

Sat Aug 31 4:00 p.m. Delores Ann Weichart
Sun Sept 1 10:00 a.m. Special Intention

Communion Service

Fri Aug 30 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,916.00	Loose \$696.00
Children	\$12.82	Total \$3624.82

64 envelopes returned = 30%

*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give electronically!!*

Assignments for August 31 & September 1, 2019

Money Counters: Tonya Meyer & Barb Galvan

4:00 p.m.

Greeters: Jan Emmert and Diana Sabater

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink

Ushers: Bob Minto and John Parinello

Lector: Laura Jones

E.M.: Kevin Vance, Basil Meyer, Jim Tabler

Servers: Elizabeth Honse and Eli Jones

10:00 a.m.

Greeters: John and Sarah Schulte Family

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink

Ushers: Roger Brodman and John Schlumbohm

Lectors: Caitlyn Couch

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

Servers: Drew, Ken, and Nick Lovett

Readings for September 1, 2019 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

2nd Reading: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:1, 7-14

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RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults into the Catholic Faith. RCIA is for anyone who:



- is a non-baptized adult
- was baptized in another Christian Church and is interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church, with or without the intention of becoming a member
- is a baptized Catholic who never received Reconciliation, Eucharist, or Confirmation

RCIA will be starting soon. If you have any questions, or would be willing to join the teaching team, please contact Father John at (419) 358 – 8631. If you, or anyone you know is interested in going through our RCIA program, please contact Father John at the Parish Office at (419) 358 - 8631

PREP



PREP Registration Forms are now out for PREP registration! If you have any questions on registering for PREP or if you are interested in joining the PREP team as a Catechist, please contact Kelly Honse. Registration is \$20 for all classes, except 2nd grade,

which has a \$30 fee.

Share & Care With Our Youth St. Mary's Parish is blessed with an outstanding group of junior high and high school youth! From September-May we meet for class twice each month from 11:00-1:00, beginning with a meal and time of fellowship. If you are interested in donating a side dish or dessert for the youth, or if you would like to serve in the kitchen, please see the dates and sign-up information in the Narthex. We truly appreciate your support and prayers for our parish youth!

Perch, Peach, Pierogi and Polka Festival in Port Clinton, Ohio will be open

from 4pm to 9:30 pm on Friday, August 30th, and from 11am until 9:30pm on both Saturday, August 31st, and Sunday, September 1st at the K of C Hall. Come to enjoy great food, cold drinks, and free polka lessons. Admission to the festival for adults is \$5.00 per day and \$12.00 for the entire weekend, anyone under the age of 18 is free. If you have any questions, visit the website at <http://www.kofc1750.org>



The Fall Festival in Bluffton is headed toward us at a breakneck pace. The Mennonite Memorial Home Service Group, a group of volunteers from local churches including St. Mary's, needs our help to make it's biggest fundraising venture a success. Donations of items, services, and experiences are needed by Sept. 20 for the silent auction. Contact Jessica Strahm at 419-358-1015, ext 248 with donations. These could be craft items, firewood, restaurant certificates, volunteering as a grocery shopper, movie passes. What ideas do you have? The bake sale will be Friday Sept. 27 and Saturday Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the lobby of Mennonite Memorial Home. Any home baked goods would be acceptable. Cinnamon rolls, breads, pies, noodles, cookies, brownies and cakes are good items to bring. What do you make that people really enjoy? Thank you for your constant faithful service to our community!



The Toledo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is pleased to invite all women of the diocese to the Toledo Diocese Women's Conference 2019. This conference will be Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019, at Kalahari Resort and Conference Center, Sandusky, Ohio. The time is from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm and our theme is: *"The Fire of His Love comes down from Heaven"*. We will be celebrating Mass first thing at 8:30 am. Our guest speakers include Elizabeth Ficocelli, Leah Swindon, and others. Registration is required for the conference. Cost ranges from \$40-\$55. Contact Debbi Luman, TDCCW President at 419-734-4004 or 419-898-0906 or debluman@aol.com for registration forms or questions.

The Helping Boys Thrive Summit™ is a one-day Summit to be held at St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo on November 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nationally recognized speakers will address urgent issues facing adolescent boys – both in and out of the classroom. Speakers will not only explore alarming statistics and trends, but offer positive ideas and resources that exist in NW Ohio. For further details including early bird registration, CEU's, and group ticket pricing, visit <http://helpingboysthrive.org/Toledo/>. It is an event you won't want to miss!