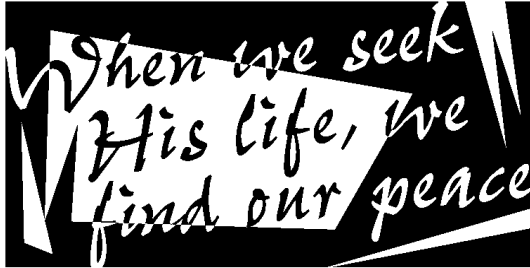


St. Mary's Catholic Church

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 6, 2014



Dear parishioners,

On this Fourth of July weekend we celebrate the freedom—and peace—that we have enjoyed as a nation for over two hundred years! In 1776 the colonists had the courage to declare their independence from England, but the Revolutionary War continued. While the colonists fought for independence, a group of courageous and self-giving men met to lay out the Constitution to set a firm foundation of governance for the new country. The War of 1812 was fought on our soil as was the terrible blood bath Civil War. In the last 150 years, however, we have been spared war on our own land. We are so blessed!

Pope Francis on his visit to Palestine (a country that has been at war for decades) said: "Peace is not something which can be bought. It is a gift to be sought patiently and to be crafted through actions, great and small, of our everyday lives. The way of peace is strengthened if we realize that we are all of the same stock and members of the one human family."

Other countries around the world are struggling for freedom and peace. We can be enormously grateful for our freedom and peace, but in kindness we need to pray diligently for other nations that they not only find peace, but that they be blessed with wise, experienced persons like Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, and James Madison....

You might want to use the verses of the hymn "This Is My Song" (last song in our missalette) as your prayer.

Happy Fourth! Be safe! Be grateful!

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

Sat July 5	4:00 p.m.	For the parish
Sun July 6	10:00 a.m.	Imajean Mathewson & Gene Badertscher
Sat July 12	4:00 p.m.	For the parish
Sun July 13	10:00 a.m.	Janet Maenle

Communion Services

Tue July 8	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Fri July 11	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$1,925.00	Loose	\$225.00
Children	\$ 16.16	Total	\$2,166.16

62 envelopes returned = 36

Thank You for your generosity!

Assignments for July 12 & 13, 2014

Money Counters: Chad Wolford, Janet Begg

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Peg Murphy

Cantor: Jenny Roby

Ushers: Dave and Joel Siefker

Lector: Jason Swartzlander

E.M.: Jerry Wehri, Jeanne Parinello, Brianna Atkins

Servers: Derek Swartzlander and Courtney McLaughlin

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Mel Heitmeyer

Greeter-West door: Sherry Heitmeyer

Cantor: Kevin Vance

Ushers: Mike and Serena Maag

Lector 1: Brian Miller

Lector 2: Tyler Begg

E.M.: Megan Dulle, McKenna Reneker, Julia Miller, Audrey Miller, Sarah Schriener

Servers: Kaden Reneker, Abby Bryer, Jonathan Schriener

Readings for July 13, 2014 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

2nd Reading: Romans 8:18-23

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-23

The Church tells us we are to take "full, active, conscious participation" in the liturgy. To give you that opportunity, the ushers will be inviting families to bring up the gifts at the offertory. Please take this opportunity when you are invited or offer your services if you wish.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 6, 2014

Next weekend, July 12 and 13, a unique and special guest will be with us after the Masses to make a special announcement. Get ready!

English Lutheran Church has invited us to attend a showing of the film "God's Not Dead" at their church on Friday evening, July 18, at 7:30 p.m. Their intent is not to promote everything in the movie but rather to open discussion about the film. We and some of the other congregations in town are making a small contribution to English Lutheran to support their showing of the film. Please come. It'll be good summer exercise to do some critical thinking.

We will have a simple farewell for Becky Meyer on Sunday, July 20—coffee and donuts after Mass so we can say thank you and good-bye.

We are in need of volunteers to be Crew Leaders (Walkers) for Bluffton Community Vacation Bible School that will be held Sunday, July 20 - Thursday, July 24 at St. Mary's. We need 4 Crew Leaders for each night. Their responsibility is to walk their group to the different stations during the night. We would really like to have the same 4 people every night, but if you are only able to do one or two nights that would be great too. High school students are welcome to volunteer as well. We are also in need of volunteers to sign up the children the first night, Sunday, July 20th. Please be here by 5:30 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the shelf in the narthex for both volunteer positions if you are interested. If you have any questions, please contact Krystal Giesige (419) 308-3188 or Kelly Honse at 419-358-1475.

Weird Animals

**Bluffton Community
Vacation Bible School
Sun. -Thurs. July 20-24
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Church**

FREE! Children ages 4 through Grade 5 are invited. Registration forms are in the main entrance. Return these by July 14 to be eligible for a prize.

Save the date: EXCLAIM, a free Christian music festival, is on Sunday, July 27, 2014. This year's featured artists are Tenth Avenue North and for King & Country. The festival includes inflatables, family games, sports tournaments, concessions, and booths from area ministries and businesses. The festival will be at the Monsignor Schmit CYO Athletic Complex. Gates open at 1 p.m. and a closing Mass is at 7 p.m. Check it out on Facebook or www.exclaimtoledo.org.

SPECIAL CHOIR FORMING The Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation invites area singers to join the *2014 Assumption Choir*. This choir, along with a brass quintet, will lead the music for the Vigil Mass of the Assumption, in the Shrine Park, on Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 9:30 p.m. This unique experience gives singers, amateur and professional, the opportunity to sing a wide variety of music with a short-term commitment. Rehearsals will be held from 4:00–5:30 p.m. in the air-conditioned Original Shrine Church (next to the Gift Shop) on Sundays: July 27, August 3, and August 10. Please direct any questions to the Director of Music Ministries, Mr. Jack Gerding, at music@olcshrine.com or 419-396-7107.

Thank you for your generous support of our Holy Father's work in the Peter's Pence Collection. Our contributions will be combined with those from our brothers and sisters around the world to help the Holy Father provide essential relief to people in need. Your generosity is an act of solidarity with the universal Church, answering the call to become a witness of charity. May God bless you.

Heartbeat of Lima now has 30 girls participating in their new Cherished Hearts program! There are more waiting to participate, but they need more volunteers who would be willing to give a morning or afternoon to help. What a blessing to encourage a young mom to be a better parent by breaking the habit of smoking! What an encouragement to your own spirit to be able to reassure a doubting mom that she truly is doing a good job. It is so easy to pop in an educational video and watch it with these moms and discuss it and encourage them in implementing what they have learned! Won't you join our team in making a difference in the lives of these moms and kids? Call us at 419-222-7945 for more information.