

St. Mary's Catholic Church

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 2, 2018

Dear parishioners,

I know that many of your hearts are heavy with the sexual abuse scandal battering our Church right now. No doubt like you I feel anger, shame, hurt, discouragement. I also know that it is Jesus' Church and he has promised to be with us always even to the end of time. He has entrusted his Church to us flawed humans. We are the Church. The darkness is the fault of us humans, not of Jesus. As I have said often, if I were Jesus, I'd just scrap the plan, take it all back, and do it myself. Jesus, however, does not give up his trust in us. He does not go back on his promises or his trust.

In our Church History class we have seen dark time after dark time after dark time in the Church. In every instance it is the holiness of an individual/of individuals who have renewed the Church—Benedict, Francis and Clare of Assisi, Dominic, Charles Borromeo, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, Thomas Beckett, Thomas More, Ignatius of Loyola, Francis de Sales....

We have in place many protections for our children. Catechists, youth leaders, and employees have to be fingerprinted, do an FBI and a BCI screening, do training, and have another adult in classes with them. The students are doing the VIRTUS classes. All this is to try to insure that no abuse of any kind happens under our watch.

No program however will heal the wound and renew the Church as much as our personal integrity and holiness. Our witness will do more to restore credibility than anything else. So I encourage every one of us to live in integrity and holiness—being all that Jesus asks of us and all that we promised in our baptismal vows.

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

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
Sat Sept 8 4:00 p.m. Jim Alt
Sun Sept 9 10:00 a.m. Dennis Warren
Fr. Dave Beck
Millie Avila

Communion Services

Fri Sept 7 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

| | | | |
|----------|------------|-------|------------|
| Adults | \$2,729.00 | Loose | \$1,068.00 |
| Children | \$29.00 | Total | \$3,826.00 |

73 envelopes returned = 35%

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for September 8 & 9, 2018

Money Counters: Barb Galvan and Deb Buck

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Jan and Diana Emmert
Cantor: Jenny Roby
Ushers: Dave and Shirley Siefker
Lector: Jason Swartzlander
E.M.: Jerry Wehri, Jeanne Parinello,
Amanda Woolley
Servers: Derek Swartzlander, Eli Jones,
Shylee Kaufman

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Sherry Heitmeyer
Greeter-West Door: Mel Heitmeyer
Cantor: Kevin Vance
Ushers: Mike and Rhonda Maag
Lectors: Joe Herrmann and Matt Ellerbrock
E.M.: Mark Zwiebel, Tricia Herrmann,
Larry Hoffman, Crystal Ellerbrock,
Candace Meyer
Servers: Grace Yarnell, Ethan Hoffman,
Evan Grothause

Readings for September 9, 2018 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

2nd Reading: James 2:1-5

Gospel Reading: Mark 7:31-37

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EPIC Our next Church history class is Thursday, September 6, at 7:30.

Welcome to all our Bluffton University students!



We hope you will find St. Mary's to be your church home away from home. You are always welcome to all our activities.

The Pastoral Council will begin its new year with supper and meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 4, at 6:30 pm. Come prepared having read the introduction and Chapter One of [It All Starts Here](#).



Don't forget! Coffee and donuts will be available after Mass next Sunday, September 9, with Larry and Marci Hoffman hosting. We can celebrate the commissioning of our Confirmation candidates!

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 is a sign-up sheet on the shelf in the main entrance. The times are 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.

The Franciscans Friars at Our Lady of Consolation Shrine, Carey, OH invite you to attend Mass on September 8 at 5:30 pm and/or September 9, 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 noon Fr. Jim Sichko will be the celebrant. Fr. Jim will be sharing his reflections on "Consolation." Join us also at 2:30 pm for Devotions and outdoor rosary procession. All are welcome!

We received a thank you card from Fr. Howe:

Thanks to the church in Bluffton for your thoughtfulness and love. I do miss you and the love you give. I pray that God continues to bless you.
Love in Christ
Fr. Norb

Catholic Divorce Ministry

A 12-week Catholic divorce recovery program, Surviving Divorce, will be hosted by Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Ottawa. Meetings will be held in the SPPS library in the Locust Street building on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. beginning October 2. The program is free of charge. An optional workbook will be available for participants to purchase.

Surviving Divorce is a program created to help the divorced or separated Catholic by offering healing through the wisdom, richness, and truth of the Catholic faith. The program videos, along with many additional resources, may be previewed online at www.catholicsdivorce.com. For more information or to register for the Surviving Divorce program, call 419-615-2298.

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.

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word and PREP

classes will be resuming soon.

Children's Liturgy of the Word is during the 10 o'clock Mass and will have their first class on Sunday, September 16, 2018.

K-6: Classes begin Wednesday, September 12th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Jr Hi Classes begin Sunday, September 16th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

God Squad Join us for a cook out to begin the new year on Sunday, September 16th from 11:00 -1:00 p.m. here at St. Mary's.