

St. Mary's Catholic Church

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 15, 2019

In her book *Wouldn't Take Nothin' for My Journey Now*, Maya Angelou writes about an acting lesson in her early career: "One day my teacher, Frederick Wilkerson, asked me to read to him. I was twenty-four, very erudite, very worldly. He asked that I read from "Lessons in Truth," a section which ended in these words: '**God loves me.**' I read the piece and closed the book. He screamed at me: "Read it again!" I sarcastically read, '**God loves me.**' He yelled: "Read it again!" About the seventh repetition I began to sense that there might be some truth in the statement '**God loves me.**' I suddenly began to cry at the grandness of it all. I realized that if **God loved me**, I could do wonderful things, I could try great things, learn anything.... That knowledge that **God loves me** humbles me and liberates me!"

In our busy, sophisticated and complex lives the idea that **God loves me** is very difficult for us to grasp. But the most important lesson Jesus taught (the central theme of His Gospel) is that **God loves us** completely, unconditionally and everlastingly. We are never beyond God's reach; we are never lost to God. A realization of the possibilities for such love in our lives is God's grace. **God's love for us** is shown in God's mercy and ability to forgive us. God desires that we might be happy and knows when we open our hearts and souls to Him alone we will receive that happiness for which we were created. Our Scripture readings for today reassure us that **God loves us unconditionally, He is merciful and forgiving with us and He wants us to be happy and be with Him forever.**

In today's first reading, we heard how God **forgave** the Israelites for worshipping a false Canaanite god (golden molten calf) right after they promised to worship only the God of Israel. In our second reading, St. Paul describes how sinful he was and how God was **merciful and loving** towards him. God **forgave** him in spite of the fact that he was persecuting Christians. Today's Gospel passage contains three of Jesus' parables and each one illustrates God's **mercy, forgiveness and love** for sinners. The parable of "The Lost Sheep" and "The Lost Coin" depict the extravagant solicitude of the shepherd and the woman to demonstrate the extent to which God will go to rescue even *one* lost person. The parable of "The Prodigal Son" contrasts God's openness to repentant sinners and the closed-mindedness of those who consider themselves faithful.

Jesus came into our world to seek out the person who wandered off, to turn the house upside down to recover the misplaced person, and he came to welcome back that deliberately lost child, allowing them the time "to come to their senses" and the freedom to choose to return home. Jesus is doing the Father's will by reaching out with **mercy, compassion and love** to all of us. All we have to do is grab His hand and He will lead us to the Father and we will be **happy and blessed** for all of eternity!

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

Weekend Masses

Sat Sept 14 4:00 p.m. Jerry Musser
Sun Sept 15 10:00 a.m. Chuck Vogel, Rosemary
and Harold VanScoder

Sat Sept 21 4:00 p.m. In Thanksgiving, Angela
and Richard Knott, Thomas Santomieri
Sun Sept 22 10:00 a.m. Mary Zaleski

Communion Service

Fri Sept 20 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,325.00	Loose \$712.00
Children	\$23.80	Total \$4,060.80

67 envelopes returned = 32%



Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
[electronically!!](#)

Assignments for September 21 & September 22, 2019

Money Counters: Nick Recker, Angie Wenger
4:00 p.m.

Greeters: Jeanne Parinello

Cantor: Choir

Ushers: John Parinello and Chuck Niese

Lector: Jim Kinn and Lisa Welch

E.M.: Diana Bucher, Jennifer Tschuor, Amy Marcum

Servers: Elizabeth Honse, Carson Meyer, Isabella Stechschulte, Nathan Meyer, Josh Meyer

10:00 a.m.

Greeters: Deb Buck and Rachel Welch

Cantor: Becca Schlumbohm

Ushers: Jeanne and Jerry Wehri

Lectors: Shannon Wannemacher

E.M.: Michelle Risner, Betty Gerten, John Schulte, Linda Kinn, Jenna Kimmel

Servers: Kendal Giesege, Makayla Schweingruber, Jordan Schweingruber

Readings for September 22, 2019 **25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Amos 8:4-7

2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:1-13

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Please note: Parish Office hours are Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Father John will be in the office Tuesday – Friday from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. and for evening meetings

RCIA: 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

Class will be starting soon. If you have any questions, would like to go through our RCIA program, or would be willing to join the teaching team, please contact Fr. John at (419) 358 – 8631.

Share & Care With Our Youth From September-May JH and HS students 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!



Altar Server Training will take place on September 22nd after Mass and October 5th at 1p.m. This training is led by Father John and is open to children grade 4 and up. It will take about an hour. Following the training, the new members will be given dates to shadow experienced servers.



Please note: experienced servers should also attend one training to be updated. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those attending.

Bishop Daniel Thomas will be here next week, at the 4:00p.m. Mass on Saturday, September 21st, to officially install Father John McLoughlin as our pastor. Following Mass, there will be a light reception.



The 16th annual Bluffton Fall Festival is happening soon! On Friday evening, Sept. 27th there will be food and activities for kids at BFR. The locations for Saturday, Sept. 28th are Mennonite Memorial Home, Maple Crest, Bluffton hospital parking lot, and the Schumacher Homestead, with meals being available at MMH and Maple Crest. Downtown Bluffton will be open with events at Mercy Health and the Farmer's Market. Transportation between locations is free and the bus stop will be at the Town Hall.



Mennonite Memorial Home is still looking for bake sale and silent auction items. Please donate silent auction items by the 20th and bake sale items by 9a.m. on Friday the 27th or Saturday the 28th. If you have questions about donating, please call Jessica Strahm at (419) 358 – 1015 ext. 248

We are in need of Catechists for the following position:

- 8th Grade Teacher for the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month after Mass

This is open for any Catholic (grandparent, college student, or parishioner) with an open and loving heart willing to serve our youth! Please contact Kelly Honse if you are interested in helping.

Walkers are needed for Weekly Christian Education. See the signup sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in taking Bluffton Elementary Students to class each week.

P.R.E.P

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Kelly Honse at (419) 358 – 8631 or khski7@aol.com

Children's Liturgy of the Word is during the 10a.m. Mass

K-6: Class is this Wednesday, September 18th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Jr High: Classes begin today from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., starting with a cookout



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth will meet today from 11:00-1:00. Join us for a cookout and fellowship!

Third Thursday is this Thursday, September 19th from 7-8:30 p.m!