

St. Mary's Catholic Church

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 6, 2019

Dear Parishioners:

At times we Christians find our life to be burdensome and somewhat unbearable. We become upset, desperate, angry and disillusioned with our God. As humans our **faith** can wax and wane. Perhaps we may even feel that God has forgotten us or has abandoned us. We want to scream out: "Where are you God?" Today's Scripture readings remind us not to despair when we are experiencing these challenging moments in our lives. Instead we should re-direct our attention to a new and stronger vision of **faith** in our God. True **faith** means believing and trusting in God even when it seems that God is being silent and not actively responding to our personal dilemma.

Our first reading is from the prophet Habakkuk who is one of the Minor Prophets. The circumstances within which Habakkuk finds himself are overwhelming: violence, ruin, misery and destruction. He faces strife and discord. It is more than he can handle so he cries out to God: "Why? Why do I have to be a witness to all of this desolation and pain?" God responds to his question with a vision, not an answer. Without telling Habakkuk why he has to carry the burden of suffering or how long he will have to wait, God instructs him that the righteous wait patiently in **faith**: "The just one because of his **faith** shall live."

In our second reading St. Paul appeals to Timothy to be courageous in the face of hardship. Paul encourages Timothy to accept and embrace the suffering that will inevitably befall him as a minister of the Gospel. Paul sounds a call to interior action, urging Timothy to stir into flame the gifts that God has given him: a spirit of courage, energy and action. With the help of the Holy Spirit, Timothy will find the strength to remain **faithful** in spite of being persecuted.

Two independent sayings constitute today's Gospel passage from St. Luke: the **power of faith** and the **responsibilities of discipleship**. Our passage answers two questions: how do we get and increase our **faith** and what do we do with our **faith** in the face of trials and suffering? We get the gift of **faith** by asking for it. In the Gospel passage the apostles ask for an increase of **faith** while Jesus speaks about its nature. The apostles are interested in quantity while Jesus is concerned about quality. Even a "little" **faith** can go a long way in producing great results. **Faith** empowers Jesus' **disciples** to action and service. Serving Jesus, especially in the least and needy, flows from **faith**. This new and stronger vision of **faith** empowers us to make our families, schools, communities and world a better place.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

Weekend Masses

Sat Oct 5	4:00 p.m.	Jim Alt
Sun Oct 6	10:00 a.m.	Fr. Neil Lucas
Sat Oct 12	4:00 p.m.	Lillian, Richard, and Ellen VonLehmden, George Donaldson
Sun Oct 13	10:00 a.m.	Mary Zaleskie

Communion Service

Fri Oct 11 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,005.00	Loose \$1,064.00
Children	\$38.60	Total \$4,107.60

79 envelopes returned = 38%



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

Assignments for October 12 & 13, 2019

Money Counters: Tonya Meyer and Deb Buck

4:00 p.m.

Greeters: Jan Emmert and Diana Sabater

Cantor: Jenny Roby

Ushers: Dave and Shirley Siefker

Lector: Jason Swartzlander

E.M.: Jerry Wehri, Jeanne Parinello, Jennifer Swartzlander

Servers: Eli Jones and Shylee Kaufman

10:00 a.m.

Greeters: Mel and Sherri Heitmeyer

Cantor: Karen Phillips

Ushers: Mike and Rhonda Maag

Lectors: Joe Herrmann and Matt Ellerbrock

E.M.: Mark Zweibel, Tricia Herrmann, Larry Hoffman, Crystal Ellerbrock, Candace Meyer

Servers: Grace Yarnell, Ethan Hoffman, and Evan Grothouse

Readings for October 13, 2019 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Kings 5:14-17

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:11-19

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A note from Fr. John: Today we celebrate **Respect Life Sunday** and **World Communion Day**. All lives matter. Our Catholic **faith** teaches us that all human beings are created in the image and likeness of God and therefore every life must be **respected** and **protected** from conception to its natural death. Today as we celebrate **Respect Life Sunday** let us pray for the safeguarding of the sanctity of human life and the protection of the inherent dignity of all persons. Today let us also pray for our brothers and sisters of other Christian faiths in our Bluffton Community who are celebrating **World Communion Day**.

Where to Place the Tabernacle?

Catholic documents affirm that the tabernacle, because it contains within it The Body of the Lord Jesus Christ, should be the central focus within a Catholic Church. "According to the structure of each church building and in accordance with legitimate customs, the Most Holy Sacrament is to be reserved in a tabernacle that is noble, prominent, readily visible, and adorned in a dignified manner." (Redemptionis Sacramentum: On Certain Matters to be Observed or to be Avoided Regarding the Most Holy Eucharist March 25,2004). "The correct positioning of the tabernacle contributes to the recognition of Christ's real presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Therefore, the place where the Eucharistic species are reserved, marked by a sanctuary lamp, should be readily visible to everyone entering the church. It is therefore necessary to take into account the building's architecture and where the high altar with its tabernacle still in place, it is appropriate to continue use this structure for the reservation and adoration of the Eucharist." (Sacramentum Caritatis February 22, 2007).

After consulting with the Pastoral Council on this matter, we came to an agreement that the Blessed Sacrament should be reserved in a tabernacle on the High Altar in the Church's sanctuary so that the Eucharist would be in a central, noble and readily visible place. Therefore we will be placing the tabernacle upon the high altar in a couple of weeks. I wanted to let everyone know ahead of time why we are doing this and share our reasoning for removing the tabernacle from the side chapel. The side chapel will remain a chapel for private prayer and also serve as a place where parents and babies and very young children can gather for the celebration of Mass.

Thanks, Fr. John

Welcome to our Family Promise Families!

Thank you to all who helped with the funeral and funeral luncheon on Wednesday, and **thank you** to all who helped with the Blood Drive on Thursday. Our parish is so lucky to have such dedicated parishioners!

Please remember to pay PREP Registration if you have not yet done so. If you have any questions regarding your payment, please contact Kelly Honse at the office at (419) 358 – 8631.



The Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 has begun. In the words of Pope Francis, "Every baptized man and woman is a mission." Our Holy Father invites each one of us to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and to reflect on how we can share His life with others. **World Mission Sunday** will be celebrated October 19/20, 2019. Please support the missionary work of the Church by your prayers, and if possible, financial assistance. More information about the Extraordinary Missionary Month is available from the diocesan Office for Mission Appeals & Awareness: (419) 244 – 6711, ext. 4920; mclin@toledodiocese.org



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: There is **no class this week**. The next class is Wednesday, October 16th

Jr High: Class will meet again today, October 6th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth will meet today, October 6th, from 11:00-1:00. **Third Thursday** is October 17th from 7-8:30 p.m.